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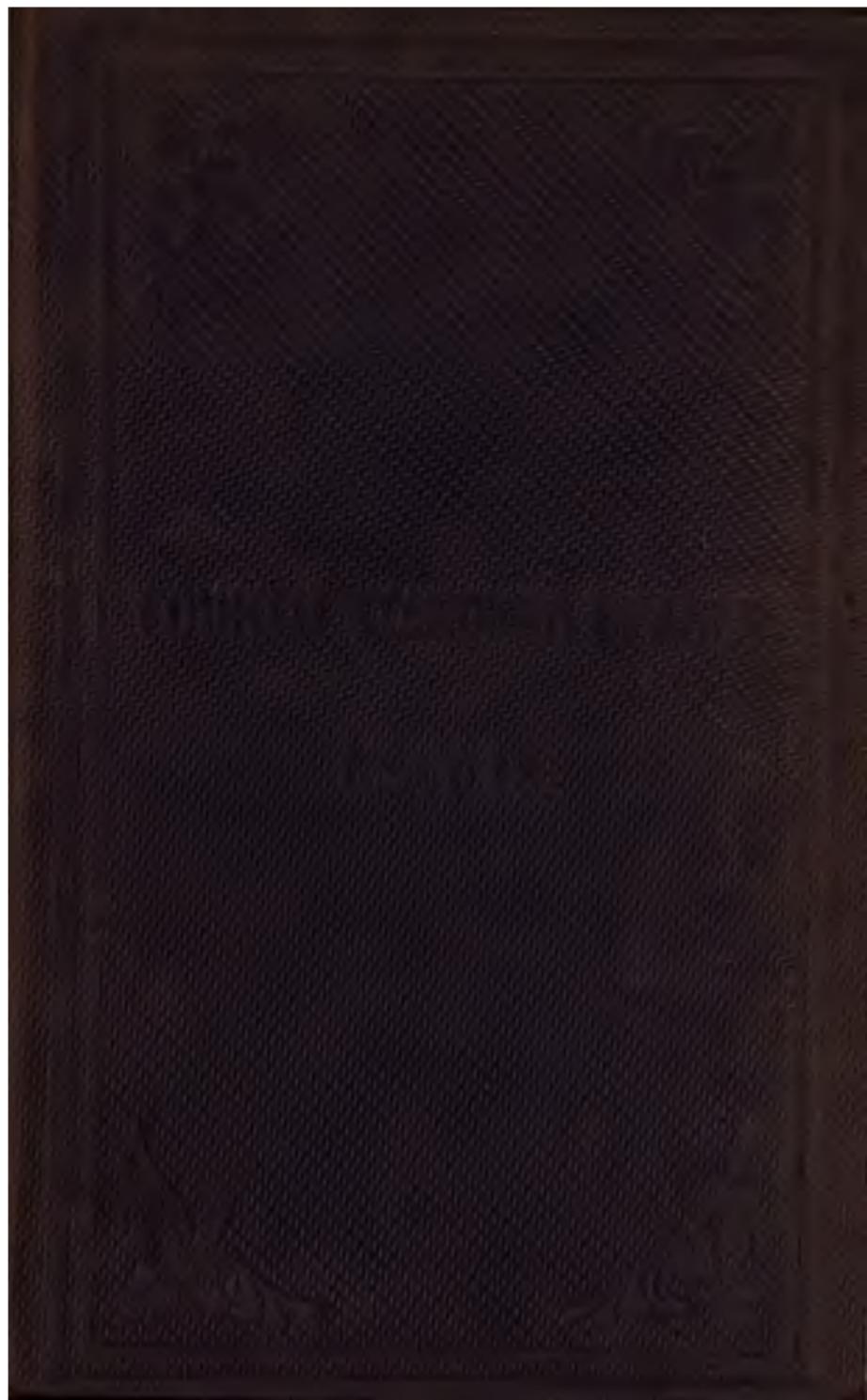
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THE 'STANDARD' SERIES
OF
ELEMENTARY READING BOOKS.

THE
FOURTH 'STANDARD' READER;
OR,
Fables and Parables.

BY
J. S. LAURIE,
EDITOR OF "THE GRADUATED SERIES OF READING-LESSON BOOKS," ETC.

LONDON :
LONGMAN, GREEN, LONGMAN, AND ROBERTS.

1863.

M E M O R A N D U M.

Revised Code.

S T A N D A R D I V.

READING.—A short paragraph from a more advanced reading-book used in the school.

WRITING.—A sentence slowly dictated once, by a few words at a time, from the same book, but not from the paragraph read.

ARITHMETIC.—A sum in compound rules (money).



PREFACE.

JUST as the previous volume aims specially at stimulating the powers of observation in the young mind, so the present one is designed to afford material for the direct exercise of the moral sentiments and the reflective faculties. It consists of Fables and Parables. In addition to the value of this species of composition as a means of moral training, the opportunity it presents of trying the pupil's ingenuity, by requiring him to find out the "application," will not be lightly estimated by competent teachers. In order to afford perfect facilities for this exercise, the "moral" of the Fables has in general been omitted. And, instead of the usual titles, appropriate proverbs and people's sayings have been substituted—an expedient which has the twofold advantage of disseminating a knowledge of these traditional maxims themselves, and of supplying an interesting set of intellectual problems to the pupils, who will be expected to discover and

explain the connection between the Fables and the headings under which they are placed.

The unusual shortness of the pieces, as reading exercises, will be found to be an advantage. The amount of repetition which it will necessitate will not by any means be superfluous; and every teacher knows what a spirit of emulation is produced by requiring different pupils to read the same lesson.

The versified Fables that are interspersed throughout the volume are intended to give variety, and the same fable is occasionally given both in prose and verse.

The columns of meanings which head the lessons in this, as well as in the preceding and succeeding volume, should be previously prepared by the pupil (perhaps as a home-lesson), and even further extended by him.

*** The writer of the majority of the versified Fables is the Rev. James Davies, whose courtesy, as well as that of the publishers of his work,* the Editor gratefully acknowledges. He has also to express his obligations to Mr. Lumley, † for facilities afforded him in carrying the present volume through the press.

* *Fables of Babrius (Æsop)*, Translated into English Verse. Lockwood and Co.

† *Fables and Allegories*; also, *Book of Fables*. E. Lumley.

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THE
FOURTH 'STANDARD' READER.

pin naught with true through
needle brought without grew threw

Turn the conversation, *talk of something else.*
Retorted, *returned, answered sharply.*

QUARRELLING DOGS COME HALTING
HOME.

A PIN and a Needle were lying close together on a little table. They had nothing to do, and so they began to quarrel.

The Pin said to the Needle, "I should like to know what you are good for. How can you expect to get through the world without a head?"

The Needle replied rather sharply, "Leave me alone as to that; but what is the use of *your* head, pray, if you have no eye?"

"And what is the use of your eye, Miss Needle, if there is always something in it?"

The Needle was rather at a loss for an answer, so she turned the conversation. "I am more active than you," said she; "I go through more work than you!"

"That may be," retorted the Pin, "but you will not live long."

"Why not, Master Round-head?"

"Because you cannot bend without breaking your back."

This was so true that the Needle grew angry, and said, "As to you, you are a crooked, ugly fellow!"

"Don't call names, Miss Sharp, or I'll stop up your eye!" said the Pin.

At this moment up came a little girl, and took up the needle to sew with. Snap it went in two, just at the eye, and she threw it on the ground. Then she took up the pin, and tied the thread on the head. In pulling it through the cloth—whisk!—she pulled off the head, and it rolled on the floor beside the needle.

"Well, here we are!" said the Needle, "We have naught to fight about now."

"Alas, no!" cried the Pin. "Bad luck has brought us to our senses!"

singing	heavy	Margaret	grumble
along	light	Susan	vegetables

Lag, go slowly, linger.
Surprise, wonder, astonishment.

PATIENCE IS LIGHTER THAN FEATHERS.

MARGARET and Susan were going along a country road. They were each carrying a basket on their heads; and the baskets were full of vegetables for the market.

Susan went along, singing gaily. Margaret lagged behind, and grumbled at every step.

"Oh dear!" said Margaret, "I can't make out how you can be so cheerful. One would think that your load is not so heavy as mine."

"Oh!" replied Susan, "my basket-ful is not so heavy as yours, because I carry something in it that makes it lighter."

"Really!" said Margaret in surprise; "pray tell me what that may be? I should much like to have some of it."

"Well," returned Susan, "it is a little of a certain thing called *Patience*."

wander	die	length	contains
hasten	dry	strength	fainting

Desert, a *waste*, *barren* tract of country.
Make sure, *feel certain*.

THE WORTH OF A THING IS IN ITS USE.

Example 1.—THE ARAB.

AN Arab lost his way in the desert. Two days had he wander'd without finding anything to eat; and he was now in danger of dy'ing from hunger.

At length he saw one of those pools of water at which travel'lers water their camels. He hastened to it as fast as his tired limbs could carry him. Alas! the pool was quite dried up!

Sud'denly he spied a large bag ly'ing on the sand. He made sure it contained food, and perhaps water, too. He had scarcely strength enough to crawl to it. On reaching it, he felt it eagerly.

"Dates! I hope," he cried. (*No.*)

"Nuts! I think." (*Better than nothing; but not even that.*)

"Pearls! Oh dear! Oh dear!" (*As bad as nothing to him.*)

And the poor Arab fell fainting on the sand.

miser	raving	garden	wretched
treasure	tears	daily	friend

Rave, speak *wildly*, or *incoherently*.
Agony, *writhing* pain, *torture*.

Example 2.—THE MISER

A MISER hid a chest of gold in his garden. He went every day, ay, many times a day, to see that it was all right. Yes; there it was, safe and sound. Oh, the dear treasure! Cover it up, old man, cover it up.

Well, one day when he had gone to take another look

there it was—not! Oh dear! what shall the poor old wretch do! He runs about raving, and tearing his hair in an agony of real grief.

Up stept a young man and said to him, "What is the matter, my friend? Have you lost your wife, or what?"

"Oh no!" sobb'd the wretched man, "worse than that: some one has sto·len a chest of gold I had in my garden. Daily I went to see it was safe; but to-day I found it gone—gone!"

"Oh, is that all?" cried the youth. "Put a big stone in the hole, and only fancy it is the chest of gold. It will be all one."

bough

shriek

murderer

pounce

screech

monster

MIGHT OVERCOMES RIGHT.

I.

A SPARROW once caught a fat Fly on the bough of a tree. The fat Fly cried out, "Oh, dear Sparrow, let me live and go my way!"

"No," said the murd'er'er, "die you shall,
For I am great and you are small."

II.

A Sparrow-Hawk saw the Sparrow enjoying his feast, so he darted down on him like an arrow. Then the Sparrow screech'd, "Oh, my fine Hawk, let me go free! What have I done to anger you?"

"No," said the murderer, "die you shall,
For I am great and you are small."

III.

An Eagle spied the Hawk as he flew off with his booty. he pounc'd down on the Hawk, and fix'd his claws in

his back. Then scream'd the Hawk, "Please, Sir King, have pity on me, and let me go free!"

"No," said the murderer, "die you shall, For I am great and you are small."

IV.

The King of Birds flew off with his prey, and settled him-self on a rock to devour it. An arrow came speeding from a hunter's bow, and pierc'd his breast. Then shriek'd the Eagle, "Monster, what harm have I done, that you wish to destroy me?"

"Ay," said the murderer, "die you shall, For I am great and you are small."

In order to drink, *with the purpose of*, or *with the view of drinking*.

Answered, *replied, retorted*.

Whether, *if, whether or not*.

Plenty, *sufficient supply, abundance*.

LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP.

A Fox, that had fallen into a well, did not know how to get out again. At length a Goat came to the place in order to drink; so he asked Master Reynard whether the water was good.

The Fox answered, "Good! why, it is as sweet as milk, and there is plenty of it."

On this the Goat leapt into the well, and the Fox, mounting on his back, sprang out.

Rainy day, *fig. for unfortunate day, or time of adversity*.

Busy drying, *busily engaged drying*.

Lay by, or lay up, *store* (for future use).

To be about, to be doing, *occupied with, or engaged in*.

Dance, *fig. for make merry*.

LAY BY FOR A RAINY DAY.

ONE cold winter day, an Ant was busy drying the corn he had laid up in summer. A Grasshopper, half dead with hunger, begged the Ant for a grain or two.

"What were you about in the summer time?" said the Ant.

The Grasshopper replied, "Oh, I was anything but idle. I sang all day long."

"Then," said the Ant, "as you could sing all summer, you may dance all winter."

Lair, couch, or den of a wild beast.

Stain, soil, fig. for sully, disgrace.

Entrapt, caught, entangled.

Set free, release.

Recognise, know from another, distinguish.

ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER.

Example 1.

THE LION AND THE MOUSE.

A LION lay sleeping in his lair, when a Mouse ran against his nose and awakened him. The Lion gently put his paw on the tiny Mouse. He consider'd awhile whether or not he would crush it to death.

The Mouse look'd up piteously in the Lion's face and said, "King of Beasts, you would surely not stain your noble paw with the blood of a poor, feeble mouse?"

The Lion smilingly let it go.

Well, soon after this the Lion got entrapt in the hunter's snares. Finding he could not free himself, he roared aloud in despair. The Mouse re-cog-nised the voice of its preserver, and ran to his help. The Mouse gnaw'd the rope with its sharp, little teeth, and so set the prisoner free.

Example 2.

THE ANT AND THE DOVE.

There was once a tiny, wee Ant, and he was very thirsty. So he ran to a river to drink. But he ran too fast, for he tumbled into the water. Master Ant was in a sad plight, as you may guess, because he could not swim.

Well, a Dove saw the whole affair from the branch of a tree hard by. So she snapt off a twig with her beak,

and dropt it into the stream. The little Ant climbed on it, and was safe.

By-and-by a sportsman came to the spot. Seeing the Dove, he raised his gun to shoot it. Well, Master Ant saw his friend's danger, and made haste to warn the Dove. How did he do it, think you?

He crept up the man's boot and stung his leg. At the same moment the man fired, but missed his aim, for the pain of the sting made him start. So the gentle Dove flew away with a whole skin.

EXAMPLE III.

The rustic and the eagle.

*A rustic saw an eagle in the snare,
And, as he much admired its beauty rare,
He loosed it from its fetters forth to roam :
Thence did the eagle a warm friend become
To its preserver. For, t'avoid the heat,
And catch the breeze, it saw him take his seat
Beneath a wall. It snatch'd, as o'er it flew,
A burden from his head, and this it threw
Far off. The rustic, eager to pursue
His pack, made for it. Down the walling fell !
And thus the rustic was requited well.
Kind acts, if birds in grateful memory set,
Can any, save the worst of men, forget ?*

By accident, accidentally, without intending it.
Mercury, the messenger of Jove, the god of the ancient Greeks.
Honesty, giving to others what belongs to them, truthfulness in action.
Make a gift, give away, or present, as a present, without hope of reward.

HONESTY IS ITS OWN REWARD.

A WOODMAN, while felling a tree on the bank of a river, by accident let his axe slip out of his hand, and it fell into the deep water. He sat down and grieved over his loss.

Mercury, taking pity on the man, came and dived for the axe. But he brought up a golden one. So he came to the man, and ask'd if that was his axe. The Woodman said, "No."

Mercury dived again. This time he brought up a silver axe. He then asked the man if that was the right one. A second time the Woodman said, "No."

Mercury dived a third time, and came up with the lost axe at last. "That surely is not yours," said he. "Yes, that is mine!" cried the delighted Woodman.

Mercury was so pleased with the man's truth and honesty, that he made him a gift of the other two.

Dishonesty, the reverse of honesty.
Knave, cheat, a dishonest person.
Acquaintance, one whom you know to speak to.
Take advantage, avail himself of (dishonestly).
Turn on the heel, turn and go away.

DISHONESTY ITS OWN PUNISHMENT.

THE same Woodman went and told his good luck to a knavish acquaintance. The Knave thought he would take advantage of it. So he goes to the river bank, and, pretending to chop a tree, lets his axe slip into the water. Then he sits down howling and lamenting.

Mercury comes as before, and, feigning pity for the Knave, dives for the axe. Presently he reappears with a golden one, as before. "That is yours, no doubt?" says

he to the man. "Yes, indeed, that is the very one!" replies the Knave, holding out his hand for it.

Mercury scowl'd at him and turned on his heel. So the lying Knave gained naught, but, on the contrary, lost his own axe.

Wallet, *bag*, or *satchel*.

Manage, *contrive*.

Neighbour's faults, *faults of a neighbour*.

Neighbours' faults, *faults of neighbours*.

EVERY ONE SHOULD SWEEP BEFORE HIS OWN DOOR.

EVERY one carries two wallets full of faults—one before and one behind.

The one before is full of his neighbour's faults—the one behind of his own.

This is the reason that men never see their own faults, while they always manage to see those of their neighbours.

Try one's hand, see if one can do a thing *as well as another*.

Entangled, *caught*.

Strangled, *choked*.

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS.

A MONKEY, perch'd on a tree, sat watching some fishermen laying their nets in a river. So one day, when the men were absent, he thought he would try *his* hand too.

Down he came accordingly, and set to work. But he got so entangled in the meshes, that he was half strangled.

"Oh dear me!" he cried, "this serves me right. For what business had I to meddle with a thing I don't understand; not to speak of putting my finger into another person's pie!"

A LIAR SHOULD HAVE A GOOD MEMORY.

A NAUGHTY Wolf was one day taking a drink at a stream. He spied a sweet little Lamb a short way down, paddling about. The Wolf, being in want of a supper, ran up to the Lamb and growl'd, "Wretch! how dare you muddle the water I am drinking?"

Then the in-no-cent Lamb answer'd, "That can hardly be the case, for the water is running from you to me—not from me to you."

"Well then," said the Wolf, "why did you call me bad names last year?"

"Oh, Mr. Wolf," the Lamb replied, "how can that be, since I was only born this year?"

So the wicked Wolf failed to pick a quarrel with the innocent Lamb.

At length, choking with rage, he cried, "Well, well, if it was not you who called me names, it must have been your father." And, without more ado, he gobbled her up.

Lie, lay, lain: the log *lay* on the ground.

Lay, laid, laid: the farmer *laid* the *log* in the pond.

Invoke, *call upon*, solicit.

"IN A POND THE FROGS WERE CROAKING."

In a pond the frogs were croaking,
And the farmer's help invoking.

"Crock, crock! crack, crack! quee, quee, quee!
Quacky, quacky, quack!"

"Tis a shameful thing that we have no king,
Oh, 'tis really too provoking!"

Farmer Brown, who lov'd a joke, sir,
Pitch'd them down a piece of oak, sir;
Thump, thump! splash, splash! quee, quee, quee'
Spatter, spatter, dash!
So King Log at first, coming with a burst,
Quite alarm'd the little folk, sir.

For some time the log lay soaking,
 Then the frogs set up a croaking:
 "Crock, crock! crack, crack! quee, quee, quee!
 Quacky, quacky, quack!
 Pooh, pooh! what's the good of a king of wood?
 Just as bad as having no king!"

Then the farmer, quite offended,
 Sent them more than they intended:
 Snap, snap! munch munch! quee, quee, quee!
 Gobble, gobble down!
 'Twas a water-snake, kept them all awake:
 So the matter was not mended.

Then the frogs too late repented,
 Wish'd they'd only been contented,
 Snap, snap! munch, munch! quee, quee, quee!
 Gobble, gobble down!
 One by one they float down the serpent's throat;
 Oh, had they been more contented!*

Right, opp. *wrong*.

Starve, die of *hunger*.

Presently, *directly, immediately*.

Negro, a *black* man of African race.

Think over, *consider*.

Replace, put in *its place*; opp. *displace*.

Turned out, *happened*.

Relieve, *give help in distress*.

RIGHT AND WRONG; OR, A BAD CONSCIENCE NEEDS NO ACCUSER.

A FEW years ago there lived a poor Negro on the banks of a river in America. This poor Negro kept a cow, but times were bad and he could get no food for her. How was he to get on if his cow starved? He thought over the matter this way and that, and at last he clearly saw that either his cow must die, or he must steal food for her.

Well, one night, off he set to a neighbour's farm-yard. When there, he began pitching hay off a hay-stack. At

* Jas. S. Stallybrass: "Curwen's Songs and Tunes for Education."

the same time he kept saying aloud, "Honesty is all very well, but my cow shall not die."

Presently, however, he stopped short, and began to think seriously on what he was doing. Well, the end of it was, that he began pitching back the hay again. At the same time he said to himself, "Honesty is best after all, and my cow *must* die."

Once more the poor Negro thought of his starving cow. "Ah! honesty is all very well," said he, "but my cow must not die." So he pitched down the bundles of hay as before.

Now at length he was prepared to carry off his booty. But as he stooped to raise it, a voice within him seemed to repeat, "Honesty is best after all, and the cow *shall* die!" So he replaced the hay for the last time, and went home.

Well, next morning, the Farmer came to the Negro's door with a whole load of hay. Then said the Farmer: "Honesty is best after all, and your cow shall *not* die!"

The poor Negro, as you may guess, was surprised, not so much at the gift as at hearing the Farmer repeat his own words. It turned out that the Farmer had seen the Negro at his hay-stack, and had over-heard what he had said. So he took this pleasant way of relieving his poor friend.

Butcher's shop, shop of *a* butcher.

Butchers' shops, shops of butchers.

Reflected (image), *repeated* as in a glass; also, *considered*.

Dinnerless, *without* dinner.

CERTAINTY BEFORE HOPE.

A CERTAIN Dog stole a piece of meat from a butcher's shop. Having to cross a river on his way home with it, he saw his shadow reflected in the stream. Thinking it was another dog with another piece of meat, he made a snap at it. But lo! he dropt his own bit, and so had to go dinner-less.

Change of masters, *another*, or a new master.

Dispose of, *sell*.

Charitable soul, charitable *person*.

Bad, worse, worst, *opp.* good, better, best.

Heavy, heavier, heaviest, *opp.* light, lighter, lightest.

FALLING FROM THE FRYING-PAN INTO THE FIRE.

AN Ass, that belonged to a Gardener, had little to eat and much to do. The Ass grumbled hard, and wished for a change of masters.

At length he got his wish, and he fell into the hands of a Potter. The Potter gave him still heavier loads to bear, and still less food to eat.

"Oh dear!" brayed the Ass, "this is worse and worse! I hope some more charitable soul will soon take a fancy to me."

Well, he was presently disposed of to a Tanner, who used him brutally. "Miserable mortal that I am," groaned the Ass, "for not only am I worse off than before, but I have fallen into the hands of a man who will not even spare my hide when I am dead!"

Mention, *tell, inform, report*.

Reap, *cut down*.

Overhear, hear what the person speaking *did not intend to be heard*.

A long while, a long *time*.

IF YOU WISH A THING WELL DONE DO IT YOURSELF.

A LARK, having hatched her young in a field of corn, was in daily terror of the sickle. So she told them to be sure and mention to her what they overheard. Well, one day the Farmer came to look at his corn. "It is high time," said he, "to call in my neighbours, and get my corn reaped."

So the Young Larks, in terror, told their mother when she came home. "Oh," said she, "is that all? If he waits for his neighbours he will wait a while."

Next day the Farmer came, and, seeing nothing done, said, "Our neighbours are good for nothing : we must go and call our relations."

The Young Larks, now frightened to death, reported this terrible news to their mother. She calmed their fears, saying, "Time enough yet : if he waits for his relations he will wait a while. Don't be afraid."

Again the Farmer came, and found his crops as before. "Ah!" said he to his son, "we must set to work at once, John, for our relations appear to be slow to oblige."

Well, when this was reported to the Old Lark, she said, "Now it is time to be off, indeed!"

Iron weather, *fig.* for *hard, stern, cold, bleak*.
 Fells, *steep crags, barren mountains*.
 Compassion, *pity*.
 Sudden, *poet. for suddenly*.
 Unblest, *cursed*.
 Kindly bosom's glow, *glow of his kindly bosom*.
 Crawling life, *poet. for reptile*.
 Fell, *fatal*.

HEAR BOTH SIDES OF A QUESTION; OR, THE MAN AND THE SNAKE.

THE ONE SIDE OF THE QUESTION.

ONCE on a time, as *Æsop* tells,
 A man, in winter's iron weather,
 Found on the bare and wind-swept Fells
 A snake, its coils frost-bound together.

He raised the creature from the ground,
 And was about to fling it by,
 When lo, some spark of life he found
 Still glowing in his evil eye.

The man, whose large compassion ranged
 E'en to that reptile most unblest,
 Sudden his idle purpose changed,
 And placed the serpent in his breast.

Under his kindly bosom's glow,
 Slowly the stiffened coils outdrew ;
 The thickening blood resumed its flow,
 The snaky instincts waked anew.

The man was glad to feel awake,
 The crawling life within his vest ;
 For to have harboured e'en a snake
 Is pleasure in a gen'rous breast.

Sudden he stops, with shriek and start—
 Then falls a corpse, all swollen and black !
 The snake's fell tooth had pierced the heart,
 Whose warmth to life had brought it back.*

Came to speaking terms, *began to grow so familiar as to talk with each other.*

This and that, *one thing or another.*

Not for a kingdom, not *at any price.*

Ancestor, *forefather*; opp. *descendant.*

Version, *account.*

Flay, *strip off the skin.*

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE QUESTION.

A LITTLE Boy once caught a Serpent. Its skin was so beautiful, that the Boy thought he had never seen anything half so pretty. Thinking what a nice plaything it would make, he took it home.

The pretty Serpent was so well fed, and so kindly treated by the little Boy, that it grew quite tame. It would come and eat out of his hand, curl itself on his lap, and go to sleep ; or raise itself on its tail, when it wanted to be funny. By-and-by, the two came to speaking terms with each other ; and they used to prattle away very pleasantly about this and that.

Well, one day, the little Boy told the pretty Serpent how fond he was of it, and that he would not part with it, no, not for a kingdom. "But," said he, "there is one

thing that I must tell you as a friend; because, you know, friends have no secrets between them."

"What is that, my brave master?" said the Serpent, eagerly.

"Well," replied the Boy, "I will tell you. Do you know the story of the man who warmed a frozen brother of yours, and who got stung to death for his pains?"

"Know it?" cried the pretty Serpent, "I should think I do! He was a brave ancestor of mine, and I am proud of him."

"Proud of so ungrateful a wretch!" screamed the little Boy, in horror.

"Oh!" said the Serpent, calmly, "I see you have got hold of a wrong version of the story. The true one is, that the man you speak of, admiring the skin of my 'brother,' as you are pleased to call him, took him home as a prize. He intended to flay him, and make a purse of the skin."

"Oh, dear!" exclaimed the Boy, "what a naughty, cruel man!"

Bequeath, *leave to others after death.*

Suppose, *think, imagine, fancy.*

Source, *beginning, spring.*

Proved, *turned out.*

Industry, *activity in a productive direction; opp. idleness, sloth.*

NO ROYAL ROAD TO WEALTH.

A FARMER, on his death-bed, called his sons around him and said, "My dear children, I am dying, as you see; and all I have to bequeath to you will be found in the fields."

The sons, supposing that some treasure was buried in the ground, set to work with their spades and pick-axes, and dug up the field. Finding no treasure, they sowed the seed for the next harvest.

The crop proved so rich, that they clearly saw what their father meant: namely, that industry was the true source of wealth.

Annoy, distract by interfering with, distract.
Newly sown, *freshly, just sown.*
Mr., *Mister.*
Mrs., *Mistress.*
Dare say, *venture to say.*
Neck drawn, *twisted, so as to strangle the bird.*

ONE IS KNOWN BY THE COMPANY HE KEEPS.

A FARMER was annoyed with some Cranes that came to feed on his newly-sown corn. At last he spread a net and caught them all.

Among the number he found a Stork. The bird cried out piteously, "Please, Mr. Farmer, let me go. You see I am not a Crane, but a poor innocent Stork."

The Farmer said, "That is true enough, I dare say; but were you not along with the thieves who were stealing my corn?"

So the Stork's neck was drawn with the rest.

THE TREES IN SEARCH OF A KING.

THE trees went forth on a time to anoint a king over them; and they said unto the Olive-tree, "Reign thou over us."

But the Olive-tree said un-to them, "Should I leave my fatness wherewith by me they honor God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?"

And the trees said to the Fig-tree, "Come thou, and reign over us."

But the Fig-tree said un-to them, "Should I forsake my sweetness and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees?"

Then said the trees unto the Vine, "Come thou, and reign over us."

And the Vine said unto them, "Should I leave my

wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?"

Then said all the trees unto the Bramble, "Come thou and reign over us."

And the Bramble said unto the trees, "If in truth ye anoint me king over you, then come and put your trust in my shadow: and if not, let fire come out of the bramble, and devour the cedars of Lebanon."

Pass for, be taken for.

Intruder, one who intrudes, or goes where he is not wanted.

Betake oneself, go, return to.

Sent about one's business, sent away angrily.

Playing the same game, doing the same trick.

PRIDE GOES BEFORE, SHAME FOLLOWS AFTER.

A JACKDAW, puffed up with pride, took it into his head to pass for a Peacock. So he stuck some of the feathers of those pretty birds in his own plumage.

But they fell upon the vain intruder, and pecked out the borrowed plumes.

The disappointed Jackdaw betook himself to his former companions. But they would have nothing to do with him, and sent him about his business.

A young Crow once thought of playing the same game. So, inserting the pretty feathers in his wings, away he strutted among a group of Peacocks.

Well, the indignant birds fell upon the Crow, and soon stript him of his borrowed finery.

"Hold, enough!" croaked the bewildered Crow.

"Not at all!" the Peacocks replied; "for since the others were not your own, it is not likely that these are." And they plucked him quite bare.

Plumage, feathers.
Throng, multitude, or number of persons.
Songster, a bird that sings, warbler.
Displayed, exhibited to view.
Engage, to attract, fix the attention.
Disgusted, displeased, offended.
Fate, lot, destiny.
Rank, dignity, eminence.
Attired, dressed.

"FINE FEATHERS NE'ER CAN MAKE FINE BIRDS."

A peacock came with plumage gay,
Before a cottage door, one day,
Beneath a little bird, whose song,
From out his cage, had charmed the throng.
As, vainly thus, the peacock stood,
The songster cheer'd the neighbourhood ;
E'en while the one, in colors bright,
Displayed his plumage to the sight,
The other sang in sweetest words,
"Fine feathers ne'er can make fine birds."

The peacock strove, but quite in vain,
Each person's praise himself to gain ;
But still the warbler, in his cage,
Did every ear and eye engage.
And now the bird, of rainbow wing,
Attempts himself, alas ! to sing ;
And they who owned his beauty bright,
Disgusted by his screams, took flight.
The other sung in sweetest words,
"Fine feathers ne'er can make fine birds."

Then take the warning, children fair,
And of the peacock's fate beware ;
Nor wealth nor rank can win your way,
Howe'er attired in plumage gay ;
Some means to charm, you all must know,
Apart from dress and outward show ;

Some virtue, grace, some gift of mind,
 Or beauty vain must fall behind ;
 While others sing, in truthful words,
 " *Fine feathers ne'er can make fine birds.*"

Gnarled, *knotty*.

As for, *with respect to, in regard to*.

Duration, *period or time of lasting*.

Appointed, *destined*.

Fashioned, *made, constructed*.

Development, *growth*.

Of a class, *in the same class*.

WEEDS GROW FASTEST.

" **W**HAT is the use of thee, thou gnarled sapling," said a young Larch tree to a young Oak. " As for me, I grow three feet in a year ; thou growest scarcely as many inches. I am straight, and taper as a reed ; thou art straggling and twisted, as a bramble.

" And thy duration," said the Oak, " is about a third part of man's life, while I am appointed to flourish for a thousand years. Thou art felled and sawed into paling ; then thou rottest, and art burned after a single summer. Of me are fashioned battle ships, and I carry mariners and heroes into unknown seas."

The richer a nature, the harder and slower is its development.

Two boys were once of a class in the Edinburgh High School. John, ever trim, precise and dux ; Walter ever stupid, confused, and dolt. In due time, John became plain John, of Hunter Square, and Walter became Sir Walter Scott, of the universe.

The quickest and completest of all vegetables is the cabbage.*

* Carlyle.

Chanced, *happened, occurred.*

Curry favor, *seek to obtain favor by humiliation.*

Address oneself, *speak to, make a remark or observation.*

To be after, *to follow, pursue.*

To be master of, *to know well, or have at the finger's end.*

In reserve, *in store.*

For your life, *to save your life.*

GOOD TO BEGIN WELL, BETTER TO END WELL.

IT chanced, one fine day, that a Cat met a Fox in the wood. Mistress Puss, being aware that she was in the presence of a gentleman of rank and ability, thought she would curry favor with him.

So she softly approached Master Reynard, and thus addressed him, "Good day, Mr. Fox; I hope I see you well. And how is the family at home?"

The haughty Fox stood still, as if thunder-struck; looked at Mistress Puss from head to foot, and with a bitter sneer thus replied, "I have not the honor of your acquaintance. Who are you, you wretched, pie-bald lick-whisker? Speak, you starveling mouse-hunter! How dare you address yourself to me? What are you good for, pray?"

"Why," replied the Cat, modestly, "I think I can do one thing, at least."

"And, pray, what is that, Madam Lick-paw?"

"Well, sir, when the hounds are after me I can escape them by running up a tree."

"Oh dear! is that all? Perhaps you are too ignorant to know that I am master of a thousand tricks, and that I always carry a sackful in reserve."

Now, at this moment a hunter approached with a pack of hounds. Mistress Puss was soon safe among the branches of a tree. Then she called down, "Quick! open your sack, friend Fox! open your sack, for your life!"

But it was too late. The boastful Reynard was worried in a twinkling.

missed	robber	shower	weather
grumbled	torrents	powder	raining

IT IS AN ILL WIND THAT BLOWS NOBODY GOOD.

THERE was once a Man riding along a road, and it was raining. Down came the showers in torrents, and, in a short time, he was wet to the skin.

The Man grumbled hard at the weather. So he not only got wet, which he could not help, but he lost his temper, which he could help.

Presently the Man came to a thick wood, and there, behind a tree, he saw a Robber standing. The Robber raised his gun and tried to shoot the Man. But the powder was damp, and so missed fire.

The Man put spurs to his horse, as you may guess, and got away safe. "Ah!" said he to himself, "it is an ill wind that blows nobody good." Can you tell what he meant by that?

Union, the result of things being combined, or joined.

Quarrelsome, given to quarrelling, disputing, or wrangling.

Invited, asked, requested.

Perceived, understood; saw clearly.

UNION IS STRENGTH.

A FATHER who had quarrelsome sons, wished to impress them with a picture of their folly. Calling them together, he put a bundle of sticks before them.

The Father then told each of his Sons to pick it up, and snap it in two. But, though every one tried his best, he could not succeed.

The Father then took the bundle of sticks, untied it, and threw each stick loosely on the floor. He then invited them to break each stick singly and separately. This they easily did.

The Sons then perceived that it was only by being united that they could be strong.

Represent, *exemplify*.

Undermine, *mine* or *dig under*, so as to take away the foundation.

Amity, *friendship*.

THE BUNDLE OF STICKS.

A good old man, no matter where,
Whether in York or Lancashire;
Or on a hill, or in a dale,
It cannot much concern our tale;
Had children very much like others,
Composed of sisters and of brothers.
In life he had not much to give,
Save his example how to live.
His luck was what his neighbours had,
For some were good, and some were bad.
When of their father death bereft them,
His good advice was all he left them.

This good old man, who long had lain
Afflicted with disease and pain,
With difficulty drew his breath,
And felt the sure approach of death.
He still had lived an honest life,
Kind to his neighbour and his wife;
His practice good, his faith was sound,
He built his hopes on Scripture ground;
And knowing life hangs on a breath,
He always lived prepared for death.
He trusted God, nor feared to die—
May it be thus with you and I!
Nor let us hope to die content,
Unless our lives be wisely spent.

He called his children round his bed,
And with a feeble voice he said:
“Alas, alas! my children dear,
I well perceive my end is near:
I suffer much, but kiss the rod,
And bow me to the will of God.
Yet ere from you I’m quite removed,—
From you whom always I have loved,—

I wish to give you all my blessing,
And leave you with a useful lesson ;
That, when I've left this world of care,
Each may his testimony bear,
How much my latest thoughts inclined
To prove me tender, good, and kind !
Observe that faggot on the ground,
With twisted hazel firmly bound."

The children turned their eyes that way,
And viewed the faggot as it lay ;
But wondered what their father meant,
Who thus expounded his intent :
" I wish that all of you would take it,
And try if any one can break it."
Obedient to the good old man,
They all to try their strength began :
Now boy, now girl, now he, now she,
Applied the faggot to their knee ;
They tugg'd and strain'd, and tried again,
But still they tugg'd and tried in vain !
In vain their skill and strength exerted,
The faggot every effort thwarted ;
And when their labor vain they found
They threw the faggot on the ground.

Again the good old man proceeded
To give the instructions which they needed—
" Untwist," says he, " the hazel bind,
And let the faggot be disjoined."
Then stick by stick, and twig by twig,
The little children and the big,
Following the words their father spoke,
Each sprig and spray they quickly broke :
" There, father !" all began to cry,
" I've broken mine !—and I !—and I !"
Replied the sire :—" Twas my intent
My family to represent.
While you are joined in friendship's throng,
My dearest children, you'll be strong !

But if by quarrel and dispute,
 You undermine affection's root,
 And thus the strengthening cord divide,
 Then will my children ill betide :
 E'en beasts of prey in bands unite,
 And kindly for each other fight ;
 And shall not Christian children be
 Join'd in sweet links of amity ?
 If separate, you will each be weak ;
 Each like a single stick will break :
 But if you're firm, and true, and hearty,
 The world, and all its spite, can't part ye."
 The father having closed his lesson,
 Proceeded to pronounce his blessing :
 Embraced them all, then pray'd and sigh'd,
 Looked up, and dropp'd his head—and died.

ENOUGH IS A FEAST, TOO MUCH A VANITY.
 A pot of honey was upset in a grocer's shop. The flies swarmed round it, and ate their fill.

At last their feet became so sticky, that they could not get away.

"Wretched creatures that we are!" they cried, "who have given our lives for a moment's pleasure!"

Discerning, *sharp, discriminating.*
 Frame, *the greenhouse cover.*
 Crannies, *holes.*
 Urge, *press.*
 Pervious, *admitting passage, penetrable.*
 Trimmed, *prepared himself, directed.*

WHERE THERE IS CONTENT THERE IS A FEAST.

THREE pine-apples in triple row
 Were basking hot, and all in blow ;
 A bee of most discerning taste
 Perceiv'd the fragrance as he pass'd.

On eager wing the spoiler came,
 And search'd for crannies in the frame;
 Urg'd his attempt on ev'ry side,
 To ev'ry pane his trunk applied:
 But still in vain—the frame was tight,
 And only pervious to the light:
 Thus having wasted half his day,
 He trimm'd his flight another way.

Our dear delights are often such :
 Exposed to view, but not to touch,
 The sight our foolish heart inflames,
 We long for pine-apples in frames ;
 With hopeless wish one looks and lingers,
 One breaks the glass and cuts his fingers ;
 But those whom truth and wisdom lead,
 Can gather honey from a weed.*

Transient, *fleeting.*
 Date, *period.*
 Effectual, *completing the purpose.*

KILLING WITH KINDNESS ; OR, THE GOLD-FINCH STARVED IN HIS CAGE.

TIME was when I was free as air,
 The thistle's downy seed my fare,
 My drink the morning dew ;
 I perch'd at will on ev'ry spray,
 My form all grace, my plumage gay,
 My strains for ever new.

But gaudy plumage, sprightly strain,
 And form all grace, were all in vain,
 And of a transient date ;
 For caught, and caged, and starv'd to death,
 In dying sighs my little breath
 Soon pass'd the wiry grate.

* Cowper.

Thanks, gentle swain, for all my woes,
 And thanks for this effectual close
 And cure of every ill.
 More cruelty could none express,
 And I, if you had shown me less,
 Had been your pris'ner still.*

SAUCE TO THE GOOSE IS SAUCE TO THE GANDER.

Some shepherds were comfortably seated in their hut, enjoying their supper. It consisted of a saddle of mutton, beautifully roasted, baked potatos, and beer.

A Wolf, attracted by the savory smell, looked in at the window. "Oh, oh!" said he, licking his lips, "What a nice fuss those fellows would have made if they had caught me with such a supper!"

Consider, *think about, consult.*
 Fortify, *make strong.*
 Resistance, *strength to stand firm when attacked.*
 Insist, *declare positively.*
 Preferable, *to be preferred, better.*

EVERY POTTER PRAISES HIS OWN POT.

A CERTAIN city being surrounded by the enemy, a meeting was held to consider the best means of fortifying it.

A brick-layer gave it as his opinion, that nothing was so fit for resistance as *brick*.

A carpenter insisted that *timber* was preferable.

Thereupon a currier started up, and shrieked out, "Gentlemen, let these men say what they like, but depend on it, *there is nothing like leather.*"

The proposal was hailed with a burst of laughter.

* Cowper.

Dwarf, a man unusually small.

Giant, a man unnaturally large.

Monster, a hideous creature formed out of all proportion.

Courageous, brave, bold.

Adventure, enterprise, something undertaken out of the ordinary routine.

CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS FROM AMONG YOUR EQUALS.

ONCE upon a time, a Giant and a Dwarf were friends, and kept together. They made a bargain that they would never forsake each other, but go and seek adventures.

The first battle they fought was with two monsters ; and the Dwarf, who was very courageous, dealt one of them a most angry blow. It did the monster very little injury, who, lifting up his sword, fairly struck off the poor Dwarf's arm. He was now in a woful plight. But the Giant coming to his assistance in a short time left the two monsters dead on the plain, while the Dwarf cut off the dead monster's head, out of spite.

They then travelled on to another adventure. The Dwarf was not quite so fierce now as before ; but for all that struck the first blow. This was returned by another which knocked out his eye. But the Giant was soon up with them, and had they not fled would certainly have killed them, every one.

They were all very joyful at this victory, and they travelled on their way, till they met with a gang of robbers.

After hard fighting, the battle ended in their favor, but with the loss of the Dwarf's leg.

The Giant, delighted with the victory, cried out, " My little hero, this is glorious sport. One victory more, and we shall be famous for ever."

" No, no !" sang out the Dwarf ; " I see no fun in your getting all the honors, while I get all the wounds."

Suffer, *allow, bear, tolerate.*
 At this rate, *in this way, if you do this.*
 Support, *livelihood.*

SELFISHNESS.

EXAMPLE I.—THE FISHERMAN AND HIS NEIGHBOURS; OR, HE IS SHAMELESS WHO IS CONSCIENCELESS.

A FISHERMAN having laid his nets in the river, took a long pole and began beating the water to make the fish go into his nets. One of the neighbours living thereabouts, seeing him do this, wondered at his impudence. Going up to him, "Friend," said he, "what are you doing? Do you think it is to be suffered that you should stand splashing and dashing the water, and making it so muddy that it is not fit for use? Who do you think can live at this rate?"

The other interrupted him, and replied, "I do not much trouble myself how you or others are to live, but I tell you that this is necessary for *my* support: therefore, be assured, I shall continue to do it."

That, *the former*; this, *the latter.*
 Prowess, *superiority in strength and courage.*
 Surpass, *excel.*
 Booty, *plunder.*
 Stake, *risk.*
 Wot, *know, guess.*

EXAMPLE II.—THE WILD ASS AND THE LION.

CHASE-PARTNERS were the lion and wild ass;
 That did in prowess, this in speed surpass;
 A booty of fat beasts their hunt supplied,
 Which into three the Lion would divide.
 "This first," said he, "as foremost, I shall take
 In right of kinghood. That my equal stake

Marks as my part. And, for the hindmost lot,
'Twill cause you hurt, unless you flee, I wot."

Measure your strength, nor with a man more strong
To company or partnership belong.*

*Accede, agree to, grant.
Scour, go searching over.
Secure, lay hold of.
Conduct, behaviour.
Forego, give up.
Necessities, needs, requirements.
Dispute, question.
Awed, frightened.
But, except.*

EXAMPLE III.—THE LION, THE LEOPARD, LYNX, AND WOLF.

A Leopard, a Lynx, and a Wolf, thought it a fine thing to hunt with the Lion. The King of Beasts acceded to their desire, and it was agreed that they should all have an equal share in whatever might be taken. They scoured the forest, and, after a hot chase, pulled down a noble stag.

It was divided very cleverly by the Lynx into four equal parts, but just as he was going to secure his share—"Hold," said the Lion, "let no one dare to serve himself, till he hath heard my just and reasonable claims. I seize upon the first quarter by right; the second I think is due to my superior conduct and courage; I cannot forego the third on account of the necessities of my den; and if any one is inclined to dispute my right to the fourth, let him speak." Awed by the majesty of his frown, and the terror of his paws, the three companions silently withdrew. They resolved, as you may guess, never to hunt again but with their equals.

Perish, *die*.
 Desire, *ask, request*.
 Apartment, *room*.
 Accommodate, *hold comfortably*.
 Situation, *place, position*.

EXAMPLE IV.—THE SNAKE AND THE HEDGE-HOG.

A Hedge-hog, half perishing with cold, once begged a Snake to receive him into her cell. He had no sooner entered than his prickles began to annoy his companion. Upon this, the Snake desired he would provide himself another lodging, as she found on trial, that the apartment was not large enough to accommodate both.

“Nay,” said the Hedge-hog, “let those that are uneasy in their situation exchange it. For my part, I am very well contented where I am; as you are not, you are welcome to go elsewhere whenever you think proper.”

Survive, *live longer*.
 Reprove, *chide*.
 Flay, *to skin*.
 Trappings, *finery*.
 Constraint, *force*.

EXAMPLE V.—THE HORSE AND THE ASS.

A MAN who kept a Horse, along the way
 Unladen used to lead him, and to lay
 His burden on an aged Ass, who groan'd
 And coming to the Horse his fate bemoan'd.
 “Wouldst thou but share my load, I might survive,”
 Said he, “but else I sha'n't be long alive.”
 “Move on,” the other cried, “don't worry me!”
 The Ass crept on, reproved; and presently
 Sank under toil, and died as he had said;
 His master therefore set the Horse instead

Beside him, shifted all the weight, and laid
This and the Ass's skin, when it was flay'd,
With all its trappings, on the Horse's back :
He cried, " Ah, ill advised ! alack, alack !
I would not bear a part, however small,
And now constraint hath laid upon me all ! "*

Entreat, *beg, implore.*
Seek one's fortune, *earn one's livelihood.*
Difficulty, *trouble.*
Interest, *well-being.*
Obstruct way, *hinder progress.*
Mutual, *common* (to both), *reciprocal.*
Incur, *meet with.*

IF YOU WOULD HELP YOURSELF, HELP OTHERS.

A BLIND man, having fallen into a miry piece of road, met with a lame man, and entreated him to guide him through the difficulty he had got into.

" How can I do that ? " replied the lame man, " since I am scarcely able to drag myself along ? But if you will carry me, let us seek our fortunes together. It will then be my interest to warn you of anything that may obstruct your way ; your feet shall be my feet, and my eyes your eyes."

" With all my heart," returned the blind man ; " let us render each other mutual services." So taking his lame companion on his back, they travelled on without incurring further dangers.

* Davies.

FORE-WARNED, FORE-ARMED.

A WILD BOAR was busy whetting his tusks on a tree, at which a fox, coming by, expressed his surprise. "For," said Reynard, "there is no need for it; neither hunter nor hound is in sight."

The Boar replied, "Very likely, Master Reynard; but when they do come in sight, I shall have something else to do than sharpen my weapons."

Trial, examination of an accused person.

Judge, the one who settles the dispute, or who presides over the examination.

Judgment, the opinion or decision of the judge.

Innocent, not guilty, guiltless.

Dismiss case, declare there is no ground for the charge, or suit.

HE THAT HATH AN ILL NAME, IS HALF HANGED.

A WOLF once took up a Fox for a theft, and sent him to gaol.

At length the trial day came, and a wise Ape was the judge. The rogue of a Fox stood up with a bold face, and said he was as innocent as a lamb of the crime with which he was charged. "Yes, he had been bred up too well to do so base a thing!"

When the Ape had heard both sides, he pronounced the following judgment:—"Friend Wolf," said he, "it is clear to my mind that you have not lost what you say." Then, turning to the prisoner at the bar—"As to you, Sir Fox," continued the judge, "I must be so free as to tell you, that there is not a shadow of a doubt you stole the goods. The case is therefore dismissed."

Purloin, *steal*.
 Elate, *overjoyed*.
 Wonted, *accustomed*.
 Sacrilege, *church-robbery*.
 Accord, *give, grant*.
 Behoved her, *was her duty*.
 Deter, *hinder*.
 Pluto's gate, *gate of hell*.

AS THE TREE IS, SO IS THE FRUIT.

A boy from school purloin'd a comrade's slate,
 And to his mother bore his prize, elate.
 She took it, did not say his act was wrong,
 Or warn his hands from what did not belong
 To them. Ere long the youth had learn'd to thieve,
 And would not, untouch'd, things more precious leave.
 The wonted habit soon became a trade ;
 Then, in the act of sacrilege, waylaid
 And caught, with hands behind him bound he went
 The road the lawless are with hangmen sent.
 With tears and moans his mother went behind,
 And her son begg'd the hangman to be kind,
 And to him this one favor to accord,
 To breathe into her ear some latest word.
 Ready to list, she near her offspring drew,
 Who violently bit her ear in two.
 When she deplored such treatment from her child,
 And the bystanders' language was not mild,
 In blame of one whose acts so impious proved
 Towards her that bore him—"Surely it behoved
 Her, first and foremost," said he, "to deter
 My youth from theft. I owe my wreck to her.
 'Twas she who welcomed first the stolen slate,
 'Tis she conducts me now to Pluto's gate." *

THE DOG IN THE MANGER.

A Dog having taken up his quarters in a manger, kept growling at the horses, who wanted their hay.

On this, one of the horses observed, "What a wretched cur this is, to be sure! Neither will he eat the hay himself, nor allow those who can."

Comes about, *happens*.
 You don't say so, *what you say surprises me*.
 O' nights, *in the night time*.
 Tit-bits, *sweet, dainty bits*.

FETTERS OF GOLD ARE NONE THE LESS FETTERS.

A LEAN, half-starved Wolf one night met with a fat, sleek Watch-dog.

"You are looking extremely well, Mr. Mastiff," said the Wolf; "tell me how it comes about that you live so much better than I?"

"Oh!" said the Dog, "as to that, you may live just as well, if you choose."

"You don't say so! Well, how is that?"

"All you have to do is to watch the house o' nights, and keep off the thieves."

"Good! I shall be happy to do anything for a crust of bread in these hard times."

Well, on they jogged; and by and by the Wolf spied a mark round the dog's neck.

Mr. Seegrим could not make it out; so he said to his friend:—

"May I ask how you came to have that mark on your neck, Mr. Mastiff?"

"Foh! that's nothing."

"But, pray, tell me, there's a good fellow!"

"Well, then," said the Dog, "the fact is, I am not a chicken, as you know well enough; so in case I should

bite gentle-folks, I am chained up all day. However, I sleep the day-light away, except when I am eating the tit-bits from my master's table. Then I'm let loose, fresh for my night rambles, and left at large. Hullo! What's the matter?"

"Much obliged to you, all the same, Mr. Mastiff. Let me be free,—with potatos and salt, if you will; but still leave me my freedom," and away trotted the Wolf.

Exceeding, *exceedingly, extremely.*
Save, *except.*

THE EWE LAMB.

THE Lord sent Nathan unto David, and he came unto him, and said unto him, "There were two men in one city, the one was rich and the other poor.

"The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds; but the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought, and nourished.

"It grew up together with him and with his children; and it did eat of his own meat, and drink of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.

"And there came a traveller unto the rich man; and he spared to take of his own flock, and of his herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him: but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come unto him."

And David's anger was kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan,—"As the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die. And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

TOO MUCH, WORSE THAN TOO LITTLE.

A FATHER once, on his return from the sea-side, brought home some shells. The delight of his son on seeing the shells was great. He took them up, and counted them over and over again. He called all his companions to see his little treasure.

Then thought the Father, " my son is so pleased with those common shells, I will give him a still greater joy. I will take him to the sea-side, where he will find them in millions on the beach."

Well, when they came to the sea-side, the boy was overjoyed. He went about on the beach, picking up the shells, for the last seemed always the most beautiful.

At length, he had more than he could carry, and he grew vexed and angry that he could not take away more. So he sat down to pick out the best, that he might fetch them home in his pockets.

He threw aside first one, then another, and at last became so tired of the work, that he threw them all away in a rage.

THE ASS AND THE FOX.

AN Ass was fond of eating prickly food,
And grinning Reynard ask'd, when this she view'd,
"With tongue so soft, how is it, best of brutes,
That on hard food you live, and thcrny fruits?
How can your tongue from prickly wounds escape?"

To babblers well this fable thou mayst shape.*

Concern, regret.

Accident, unforeseen event (generally of an unfortunate kind).

Make reparation, make good, or make amends.

Justice, fairness.

Alter, change.

Exact, force to do.

DO AS YOU WOULD BE DONE BY.

A FARMER went to a neighbouring lawyer, and expressed great concern for an accident which he said had just happened. "One of your oxen," he said, "has unluckily been gored by a bull of mine, and I should be glad to know how I am to make you reparation."

"Thou art an honest fellow," replied the lawyer, "and I suppose will not think it unreasonable if I ask one of your oxen in return."

"It is no more than justice," said the farmer, "to be sure; but what did I say? I am wrong; it is *your* bull that has killed one of *my* oxen."

"Indeed!" said the lawyer, "that alters the case: I must inquire into the affair; and if I find—"

"And *if!*" said the farmer; "the business would doubtless have been settled without an *if*, had you been as anxious to do justice to others as to exact it from them."

Eagerly, excitedly.

Surprise, take by surprise, come upon unawares.

Secure, lay hold of.

Elude, get away from, escape, evade.

Violence, force.

GENTLY, OR NOT AT ALL.

A Boy, wishing to catch a Butterfly, chased it eagerly from flower to flower. First he tried to surprise it among the leaves of a rose; then to cover it with his hat as it was feeding on a daisy: now he hoped to secure it as it rested on a sprig of myrtle; and again grew sure of his prize, when he perceived it loitering on a bed of violets.

But the fickle fly, continually changing one blossom

for another, still eluded his grasp. At length, observing it half buried in the cup of a tulip, he rushed forward, and, clutching the flower with violence, crushed the Butterfly to death.

Nothing venture, nothing have.

A boy, wishing to pluck a nettle, timidly touched it, and it stung him severely.

He ran home, and told his mother, as most little boys do. "Oh," said she, "it was your own fault. If you had grasped it boldly, it would not have stung you."

Condole with, to grieve, or lament with, pity.
Thriving, growing well, rapidly or vigorously.
Fret, complain, grumble.
Damage, hurt, injury, or harm.
Occasion, cause, or need.

HE ROBS HIMSELF WHO SPENDS A BOOT- LESS GRIEF.

Two Gardeners, who were neighbours, had their crops of early peas killed by the frost. One of them came to condole with the other on their misfortune.

"Ah!" said he, "how unfortunate we have been, neighbour. I have done nothing but fret ever since.

But you seem to have a fine, thrifty crop coming up already. What are these?"

"These?" replied the other Gardener, "why, these are my second crop, which I sowed immediately after the loss of the first."

"What! coming up already?" exclaimed the fretter.

"Yes; while you were fretting, I was working."

"What! do you not fret when you meet with a loss?"

"If I do, I always put it off until I have repaired the damage."

"Why, *then* you have no need to fret at all!"

"True," replied the other Gardener; "for at first I have no time for fretting, and afterwards I have no occasion for it. *All's well that ends well.*"

THE MORE HASTE THE LESS SPEED.

Haste makes waste, waste makes want, and want makes strife between the good man and his wife.

A PIGEON, dying with thirst, saw a glass of water on a window-sill. She pounced down upon the glass, but with such force that she upset it. Thus the water poured down the walls, while the Pigeon looked on in helpless dismay.

Margin, side, brink.

Survivor, one who lives longer than another.

ONE'S MEAT IS ANOTHER'S POISON.

A TROOP of Boys were playing on the margin of a pond. Spying some Frogs in the water, they pelted them with stones.

They killed a number of these harmless animals; and the more they killed the hotter grew the sport.

At length one of the survivors, bolder than the rest, popped his head above the water. Looking the Boys steadily in the face, he cried out, "Stop your cruel sport, lads; consider that what is play to you is death to us."

Take on the road, *come upon.*
 Blame-suggestive air, *fault-finding manner.*
 Avail to reascend, *be enabled to get up again.*

FORECAST BETTER THAN WORK HARD.

In marshy swamp two Frogs were wont to bide ;
 When in the summer season this was dried
 They left it, for another home to look,
 And in their road a well of water took.
 Beholding this, thus spake the first of these :
 " Into this well descend we, if you please,
 Since both for food and dwelling it bids fair."
 The other said, with blame-suggestive air,
 " Nay, but suppose this too should chance to fail,
 How from a depth so great could we avail
 To reascend ? "

Hence learn a moral true,
 Without forethought 'tis useless aught to do.

Rejoin, *answer, reply.*
 Insist on, *stick to, persist in.*
 Extremely, *very, excessively.*
 Partner, *sharer.*

NO SWEET WITHOUT SWEAT; NO PAINS NO GAINS.

As two Men were travelling on the road, one of them espied a bag of money lying on the ground, and picking it up, " I am in luck this morning," said he, " I have found a bag of money."

" Yes," returned the other; " though I fancy you should not say *I*, but *We* have found it: for when two friends are travelling together, they ought equally to share in any good fortune that may happen to attend them."

" No," rejoined the former, " it was I that found it, and I must insist upon keeping it." He had no sooner spoken the words, when they were alarmed with the hue

and cry after a thief who had that morning taken a purse upon the road. "Ah!" says the finder, "this is extremely unfortunate; we shall certainly be seized."

"Good Sir," replied the other, "be pleased not to say *We*, but *I*; for as you would not allow me a share in the prize, you have no right to make me a partner in the punishment."

Spent, *tired, exhausted.*
 Release, *to free.*
 Invocation, *call, appeal.*
 Implore, *beg earnestly, entreat.*
 Assistance, *help, aid.*

SAYING AND DOING ARE DIFFERENT.

A FEEBLE Old Man had gathered, in a wood, a bundle of sticks. Being spent with carrying the load, he called upon Death to release him. Death, hearing the invocation, was immediately at his elbow, and asked him what he wanted.

Frightened and trembling at the unexpected appearance—"O good Sir!" said he, "my burthen was slipping from me, and I implored your assistance only to replace it on my shoulders."

Conscious superiority, *aware of being better.*
 Contempt, *scorn.*
 Gang of highwaymen, *band of robbers.*
 Possess, *have.*
 Unmolested, *without harm or annoyance.*

A HORSE IS NEITHER BETTER NOR WORSE FOR HIS TRAPPINGS.

Two Horses were travelling the road together; one loaded with a sackful of flour, the other with a sackful of money. The latter, proud of his splendid burden, tossed up his head with an air of conscious superiority; and every now and then cast a look of contempt upon his humble companion.

In passing through a wood they were met by a gang of Highwaymen, who immediately seized upon the Horse that was carrying the treasure. Now, the spirited steed not being willing to stand quiet, the Robbers beat him most unmercifully. After plundering him of his boasted load, they left him to lament at his leisure the cruel bruises he had received.

"Friend," said his despised companion to him (for *scorn is catching*, you know), "high posts are often dangerous to those who possess them. If you had served a master as I do, you might have travelled the road unmolested."

Meed, reward.
Mansions, fine houses.
Comeliness, prettiness.
Haply, perhaps.
Mark, ability, distinction.
Credit, reputation.
Sustain, support, endure, incur.

EXAMPLE II.—THE FIR-TREE AND THE BRAMBLE.

A FIR-TREE and a Bramble disagreed,
 For the Fir alway paid to self the meed
 Of praise. "I'm fine, well-grown in point of size;
 And my straight top is neighbour to the skies.
 'Tis I am roof of mansions, keel of ships:
 So much my comeliness all trees outstrips."
 To whom the Bramble said, "Keep well in view
 The axe, whose business is thy trunk to hew,
 And saws that cut thee; haply thou'l prefer
 To be the Bramble rather than the Fir.

All men of mark more rank and credit gain
 Than meaner folks, but still more risks sustain.*

* Davies.

CONCEIT.

I.

CONCEITED FOLKS THINK THEY CAN DO EVERYTHING.

AN Eagle, from the top of a high mountain making a stoop at a Lamb, pounced upon it, and bore it away to her young. A Crow, who had built her nest in a cedar near the foot of a rock, observing what passed, was ambitious of performing the same exploit; and darting from her nest, fixed her talons in the fleece of another Lamb. But, neither able to move her prey, nor to disentangle her feet, she was taken by the Shepherd, and carried away for his children to play with. They eagerly inquired what bird it was:—"An hour ago," said he, "she fancied herself an eagle; however, I suppose she is by this time convinced that she is but a Crow."

II.

CONCEITED FOLKS THINK OF THEMSELVES MOST.

As a Fly was crawling leisurely up one of the columns of St. Paul's, he often stopped to examine it. At last, he broke forth into the following exclamation: "Strange! that any one who pretends to be an artist, should ever leave so fine a building in so rough and unfinished a state."

"Ah, my friend!" said that clever architect, the Spider, "you should never judge of things beyond your capacity. This lofty building was not built for such mites of animals as you or I; but for a class of creatures who are, at least, ten thousand times larger. To their eyes, it is very possible, these columns may seem as smooth, as to you they appear rough and unpolished."

III.

*Conceited folks fancy others
are thinking about them.*

*A Grat on a Bull's horn his seat had made,
And, pausing first, thus with a buzz he said:
" If I bear down or bend your neck a whit,
I'll go and on yon river poplar sit."
The Bull cried, " Stay or go, for aught I care,
I did not even know when you came there."*

*Absurd is he, who, being nought, will try
To cope with great men and ape something high.*

IV.

**CONCEITED FOLKS ARE UNENDURABLE TO THE
SUFFERING.**

A HEN was sick. To her a Cat inclined
Her head. " How do? For what have you a mind?
I'll get you all you wish—but don't say die!"
If you'll be off," said she, " that will not L"*

* Davies.

EVERY COCK CROWS ON HIS OWN DUNG-HILL.

A KID, perched on the roof of a high house, saw a Wolf below. Now, the Kid began to mock and scoff at the Wolf. So the Wolf turned round and said, "Oh, you little coward! do not fancy it is you yourself who are above me; consider rather that it is the place where you are standing."

Conspiracy, *a revolt, a combination, a strike.*

Persist, *continue obstinate, or maintain firmly.*

Subjection, *submission.*

Convince, *persuade.*

Function, *thing to do, duty.*

Proper sphere, *own line.*

THE GOOD OF ONE IS THE GOOD OF ALL.

ONCE upon a time all the Limbs did not work together so friendly as they do now. Each had a will and a way of its own. The Members generally began to find fault with the Belly for spending an idle life, while *they* were wholly occupied in laboring for its support. So they entered into a conspiracy to cut off supplies for the future.

It was agreed that the Hands were no longer to carry food to the Mouth, nor the Mouth to receive the food, nor the Teeth to chew it. They had not long persisted in this course of starving the Belly into subjection, ere they all began, one by one, to fail and flag, and the whole body to pine away.

Then the Members were convinced that the Belly also, cumbersome and useless as it seemed, had an important function of its own; that they could no more do without *it*, than *it* could do without them; and that if they would have the body in a healthy state, they must work together each in its proper sphere, for the common good of all.

Partake of, *share in.*
Interrupt, *break in upon.*

THE FOOT'S COMPLAINT.

"It's really too bad," cried the Foot, in a fever,
"That I am thus walking and walking for ever;
My mates are in honor and indolence set,
While here I am doomed to the mud and the wet.

"There's the Mouth—he partakes of all the nice things,
And the Ear only wakes when the dinner-bell rings;
The Hand with his rings decks his fingers so white,
And as to the Eye—he sees every fine sight."

"Stay, stay," said the Mouth, "don't you know, my dear
brother,
We all were intended to help one another?
And surely you can't be thought useless and mean,
On whom all the rest so entirely must lean.

"Consider, my friend, we are laboring too,
And toiling—nay, don't interrupt me—for you;
Indeed, were it not for the Hand, Mouth, and Eye,
Of course, you know well, you would falter and die.

"I eat—but 'tis only that you may be strong;
The Hand works for you, friend, all the day long;
And the Eye—he declares he shall soon lose his sight,
So great are his efforts to guide you aright."

The Foot in reply could find nothing to say;
For he felt that he had talk'd in a blameable way,
And owned the reproof was both wise and well meant:
For, wherever we are, we should there be content.

Indicated, *pointed out, shown.*
 Convenient, *suitable.*
 Prudent, *frugal, economical.*
 Peasant, *one who lives by field labor, a countryman.*
 Trampled, *trodden under foot.*
 Ascended, *mounted up; opp. descended.*
 Clods, *hard lumps of earth.*
 Journeyed, *travelled.*
 Mutual, *reciprocal, common to both.*
 Scoffer, *one who mocks, or derides.*
 Precept, *moral advice.*

EXAMPLE BETTER THAN PRECEPT.

A FATHER was walking with his Son to a fair in a neighbouring city. The way led them across a wide meadow. Groups of people walked before and behind them, and each one, instead of taking the road indicated by the guide-posts, sought a more convenient path.

The meadow was owned by a prudent and industrious peasant, who, in order to protect it, had made a path for the people to walk on. But the travellers chose to turn off on either side, and thus trampled the meadow, and beat down the grass. *

Only the Father, of whom I have spoken, ascended the high path, and with short, firm steps smoothed the rough clods. This pleased his Son, and he trampled on behind him, as if he were treading a path in a garden.

But the travellers behind them, who journeyed on much more comfortably upon the grass, laughed at them. The boy heard this, and said, "Father, those people are laughing at us, doubtless, because we are walking alone upon this uneven path."

"It is very possible," replied his Father; "but I am sure that the owner of this meadow is not among the laughers. And at this very moment, probably, they are looking with fear around after the owner of these grounds; for the most convenient path is not always the lawful one. Whereas we follow with light hearts the way which all should tread."

On their return from the fair, the Father and his Son

came to this spot somewhat later than the rest of the travellers. "Father," said the Son, "there is no one now laughing at us. Let us tread the path completely smooth, and then others will take it, and no longer turn aside and injure the meadow."

But to their mutual joy, they soon perceived that a number of men (and, doubtless, some of those scoffers were among them) had already gone before, and taken the path which had been prepared for them.

"Seest thou," said the Father, "*the power of good example!* Let us ever, through life's journey, pursue that path, however rough, upon which we need fear no watcher."

"*Why don't you walk straight?*" said a crab to his younger brother.

"*I will, big brother,*" retorted the little fellow, "*as soon as you show me the way.*"

Belike, likely, probably.

Averred, stated firmly.

Topsy-turvy, upside down.

Prompt means, ready measures.

Vehemently, stoutly, fiercely, forcibly.

A DELUGE OF WORDS AND A DROP OF SENSE.

ONCE upon a time, a Man, in drink belike, raised a dreadful outcry at the corner of the market-place. He averred that the world was all turned topsy-turvy; that the men and cattle were all walking with their feet uppermost; that the houses and earth at large (if they did not mind it) would fall into the sky; in short, that unless prompt means were taken, things in general were on the high road to ruin.

As the people only laughed at him, he cried the louder and the more vehemently; nay, at last began storming and foaming.

At length a good-natured person going up, took the Man by the haunches, and softly turning him round, set him down on his feet.

The which upon perceiving, his mind was staggered not a little. "Ha! drat it," cried he, rubbing his eyes, "so it was not the *world*, then, that was hanging by its feet, but *I* that was standing on my head."*

*Chamberlain, head officer of a royal household.
To fare sumptuously, to live well, luxuriously.*

EVERY MAY-BE HAS A MAY-NOT-BE.

THERE lived at the court of King Herod a rich man, who was the king's Chamberlain. He clothed himself in purple and fine linen, and fared like the king himself.

Once a friend of his youth, whom he had not seen for many years, came from a distant land to pay him a visit.

Then the Chamberlain invited all his friends, and made a feast in honor of the Stranger.

The tables were covered with choice food, placed on dishes of gold and silver, and the finest wines of all kinds. The rich man sat at the head of the table, glad to do the honors to his friend, who was seated at his right hand.

So they ate and drank, and were merry.

Then the Stranger said to the Chamberlain of King Herod, "Riches and splendor like thine are nowhere to be found in my country." And he praised his greatness, and called him happy above all men on earth.

Well, the rich man took an apple from a golden vessel. The apple was large, and red, and pleasant to the eye. Then said he, "Behold, this apple hath rested on gold, and its form is very beautiful!" and he presented it to the Stranger, the friend of his youth.

* Carlyle.

The Stranger cut the apple in two ; and, behold, in the middle of it there was a worm !

Then the Stranger looked at the Chamberlain ; and the Chamberlain bent his eyes to the ground and sighed.*

Seize, *lay hold of, grasp.*

Give way, *yield and break.*

Humanity, the *human race* ; humanity, *kindness.*

To relent, *to soften, exchange harshness for mildness.*

TAKE THE WILL FOR THE DEED.

THERE was once a Hound who was worn out in the service of his Master. One day his Master went out to hunt the wild boar.

The Hound seized a boar by the ear, but his rotten teeth gave way, so he lost his hold. On this the huntsman was angry, and prepared to beat him.

But the Hound whined forth, " Dear Master, spare your feeble servant. Remember rather what I have been than what I am."

For the sake of Humanity, let me add that the huntsman relented, and gave the poor Dog a patting instead of a beating.

Present oneself, *appear before.*

Ear (for music), *taste, liking, or faculty.*

Pass (the time), *while away, or expend.*

Testily, *ill-naturedly.*

Enemy, *one opposed to another, antagonist.*

Subject, *one under the rule of another.*

Proclamation, *public notice.*

ANSWER A FOOL ACCORDING TO HIS FOLLY.

A Cock, perched on the branches of an oak, crowed aloud in the joy of his heart at seeing the sun rise. Of course, his shrill notes echoed far and wide, and awakened all the beasts of the forest.

* Krummacher.

Well, a Fox amongst the rest, was roused from his slumbers, and, having a sharp appetite for breakfast, soon presented himself at the foot of the tree. There, to be sure, was the Cock crowing lustily; but the Fox had no ear for music, and wished for nothing more than to get at the Cock.

So looking up, the Fox sings out, "Hallo, there, Master Cock-a-doodle-doo! why don't you crow a little louder? I am deaf as a post, and can hear nothing but a squeak! Can't you step down, and crow a little into my ear, just to pass the time pleasantly, as good friends ought to do?"

The Cock replied, "No, no, Cousin Reynard, I know a trick worth two of that, and that is, neither more nor less, than to stay where I am."

To this the Fox said, rather testily, "You don't mean to say, Mr. Chanticleer, that I would take advantage of your kindness?"

"Oh dear no!" answered the Cock, "honest enough you are no doubt; but suppose some other enemies of mine should come in sight, who is to save me from their clutches?"

"Very true," said the Fox, "but is it possible you have not heard that King Lion has proclaimed a general peace among the whole of his subjects?"

The Cock took no notice of the remark, but kept his eye fixed on a distant point.

"Well, you might be civil at any rate," continued the Fox; "pray what are you looking at so eagerly?"

"Oh!" rejoined the Cock, "I was only wondering what yonder pack of dogs were after."

"Ah! in that case I must be off."

"Oh no! Don't go yet. Besides, you forget that these are peaceable times."

"Yes, yes!" cried Reynard, running off; "but the chances are, the dogs have not yet heard of the proclamation."

Prematurely, *before they were hatched.*
Genial, *pleasant, agreeable.*
Verge, *brink, margin.*
Lodge, *poet. for lodging.*
Destined, *appointed.*
Expecting fair, *sweetheart expecting it.*

WHAT ONE LOSES ANOTHER GETS.

A RAVEN, while with glossy breast
Her new-laid eggs she fondly press'd,
And, on her wicker-work high mounted,
Her chickens prematurely counted,
Enjoy'd at ease the genial day,
'Twas April—on the verge of May.
But suddenly a wind as high
As ever swept a winter sky,
Shook the young leaves about her ears,
And fill'd her with a thousand fears,
Lest the rude blast should snap the bough,
And spread her golden hopes below.
But just at eve the blowing weather
And all her fears were hush'd together:
And now, quoth poor, unthinking Ralph,
'Tis over, and the brood is safe.
The morning came, when neighbour Hodge,
Who long had mark'd her airy lodge,
And destin'd all the treasure there
A gift to his expecting fair,
Climb'd like a squirrel to his dray,
And bore the worthless prize away.*

Quost, *search*.
 Rogale, *feast*.
 Dainties, *sweets*.
 Revl in, *give oneself up*, or *abandon*, *to*.
 Surfeited, *stuffed*.

POVERTY CRAVES MUCH, AVARICE MORE.

EXAMPLE I.—THE TWO BEES.

ONE fine morning, two Bees set forward in quest of honey: the one, wise and temperate; the other, careless and gluttonous. They soon arrived at a garden enriched with the most fragrant flowers, and the most delicious fruits.

They regaled themselves, for a time, on the various dainties before them: the one loading his thigh with provisions for the hive against the winter season; the other revelling in sweets, without regard to anything but his present pleasure.

At length they found a wide-mouthed vial, that hung beneath the bough of a peach-tree. It was filled with honey, and exposed in the most tempting manner. The thoughtless glutton, notwithstanding his friend's caution, plunged headlong into the vessel, resolving to indulge himself to the utmost.

In the evening, his friend called upon him, to inquire whether he would return to the hive; but found him surfeited in sweets, which he was as unable to leave as to enjoy. For he was sticking fast, and at his last gasp.

EXAMPLE II.—THE MOUSE THAT FELL INTO THE POT.

A Mouse into a lidless broth-pot fell;
 Choked with the grease, and bidding life farewell,
 He said: "My fill o' meat and drink have I,
 And all good things; 'tis time that I should die."
 Thou art that dainty mouse among mankind,
 If hurtful sweets are not by thee declined.*

Dam, *mother.*
Sire, *father.*

Fleetness, *swiftness.*
Visage, *look, countenance.*

*It is not easy to bring out
of the flesh what is bred in
the bone.*

*A Male, in lazy manger fed on hay,
And fresh with corn, began to leap and say,
Kicking his heels, "A racer is my dam,
" And I for her a match in fleetness am."
Yet with sad visage soon his course he check'd,
Constrain'd his sire, the ass, to recollect.*

Nurture, nourish, bring up.

EXAMPLE II.—THE YOUNG WOLF.

A WOLF's young cub was by a Shepherd caught;
This, with his dogs to nurture, home he brought.
In time it grew up, in the sheepfold rear'd,
Where, if so be another wolf appear'd,
Intent to rob, of lamb or kid, the fold,
First rank among the dogs would this one hold.
Quickest the daring robber to pursue,
But if the dogs of chasing weary grew,
And toward the sheepecot, failing to o'ertake
The spoiler, chanced their backward road to make,
Not, as in chase, the tame wolf onward went,
But for a share fell in by accident.

Or should no other wolf, to steal a sheep,
 Chance from outside into the fold to leap,
 Then with the dogs he made a sly repast
 On one. The Shepherd caught the rogue at last,
 And from a tree, to kill him, let him swing.
 Good habits do not from ill natures spring.*

FALSE AND FOUL.

A WOLF, severely bitten by a dog, lay bewailing his sad plight. At last he spied a Sheep, and begged her to fetch him some water from the river: "For," said he, "as to meat, I can easily get that myself."

The Sheep was not quite so silly as to grant the Wolf's request: "For," said she, "if I come within the range of your paws, I have no doubt you will procure meat without difficulty."

FALSE FRIENDS.

WHEN I was still a boy, and mother's pride,
 A bigger boy spoke up to me so kind-like,
 "If you do like, I'll treat you with a ride
 In this wheel-barrow." So then I was blind-like
 To what he had a-working in his mind-like,
 And mounted for a passenger inside;
 And coming to a puddle pretty wide,
 He tipp'd me in a-grinning back behind-like.
 So when a man may come to me so thick-like,
 And shake my hand where once he pass'd me by,
 And tell me he would do me this or that,
 I can't help thinking of the big boy's trick-like;
 And then, for all I can but wag my hat,
 And thank him, I do feel a little shy. †

* Davies.

† Barnes.

Restore, *gives up*.
Remind, *call to mind*, or *memory*.
Invent, *find out*,
Pilferer, *thief*.

TWO BLACKS DON'T MAKE A WHITE.

A Dog once pursued a Raven, who had a nice piece of flesh in its mouth. "Stop thief!" cried he; "you have run off with my piece of beef. Restore immediately what you have so wickedly purloined."

"Softly, softly, friend," rejoined the Raven, "you are not aware, perhaps, that I have received instructions from the police to look out for, and seize all stolen goods; and I need not remind you how you came by this."

The Raven was a rogue, and had invented this story to cheat the Dog; but the poor Dog had not a word more to say. His conscience told him that he had no better right to the meat than the Raven had.

They were both of them pilferers, and one was as bad as the other.

Abate, *lessen*.
Inexhaustible, *not to be exhausted*, or *emptied*; *enormous*.
Production, *bringing forth*.

THE GOOSE WITH THE GOLDEN EGGS.

A CERTAIN man had the good fortune to possess a Goose which laid him a golden egg every day. But not contented with this, which rather increased than abated his avarice, he was resolved to kill the Goose, and cut her up. Thus he might, he fancied, at once come to the inexhaustible treasure which she had within her. Then he would not be obliged to wait for the slow production of a single egg daily. He did so; and lo! he found nothing!

WHEN golden eggs a fine hen daily laid,
 Its owner thought to find his fortune made
 From endless treasures in its bowels stored—
 He slaughter'd it to pounce upon the hoard.
 Its inward parts like other birds he found,
 And mourn'd his baffled hopes with grief profound.

Thus oftentimes doth greediness of more
 Rob men of even what they had before.*

**A LIAR IS NOT TO BE BELIEVED EVEN
 WHEN HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH.**

THERE was once a silly Shepherd Lad, who had very little to do. So he spent much of his time in wasting the time of other folk. And this was the way he behaved:—

He would every now and then run into the village, shouting “A Wolf! A Wolf!” Well, of course, the men seized their big sticks, and pitchforks, and hastened to slay the brute.

But, no! not a hair of a Wolf was to be seen. It was all a hoax. By-and-bye, nobody paid any attention to the lying cry, so the Lad howled in vain.

At length a monster of a Wolf really did come and attack his flock.

The Boy shouted as before. But nobody believed him. So he was torn in pieces.

*Pounce, drop down upon.
 Expiring, dying.*

A WORD BEFORE IS WORTH TWO BEHIND.

A GULL pounced upon and seized a Fish; but in trying to swallow it he got choked. There he lay on the beach, half dead with pain and fright.

A Kite, who was flying by, saw the Gull, and, like a good friend, came to comfort him in his distress.

And this was the comfort the Kite gave the sufferer :—
 “Serves you right; for what business have fowls of the
 air with fish of the sea?”

“Why did you not warn me of that before?” gasped
 the expiring bird.

*Shaft, arrow.
 Accents, words, utterances.*

THE ARCHER AND THE EAGLE.

AN Archer at an Eagle took his aim :
 The shaft he sent, true to the Eagle came.
 To whom, when, as he turned his head, 'twas known,
 The shaft was wing'd with feathers of his own ;
 “Oh, luckless me!” his dying accents said ;
 “With mine own feathers I my bed have made.”
 Most from their own, much less have sufferèd.*

*Pace, rate of going.
 Sing to another tune, speak differently.
 Retort, a sharp, telling reply.
 Scorn, mocker, scoffer.
 Self-confident, trusting in oneself.*

SLOW BUT SURE WINS THE RACE; OR, A WAGER IS A FOOL'S ARGUMENT.

A HARE, seeing a Tortoise moving along the sands, laughed at him for the slowness of his pace. The Tortoise, who could bear anything but a jeer, turned round snappishly, and said,

“Hold your mocking tongue, Sir Puss, for, if I chose, I could soon make it sing to another tune!”

The Hare looked mightily amused at the retort, just as all scorers try to do when they find they have got as good as they gave. Sir Puss, too, was self-confident; so he agreed at once to try a race with Mistress Tortoise.

Off they started; but after running a short distance,

* Davies.

the Hare thought he would take a rest. Well, so he did, and he fell asleep.

Meanwhile the Tortoise, who was plodding slowly on, passed her rival—not like a shot, certainly, but still she passed him. Aye, and he by-and-bye got to the winning-post. At that moment Sir Puss awoke, and saw he was just in time to be too late!

THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE.

A FORWARD Hare, of swiftness vain,
The *genius* of the neighb'ring plain,
Would oft deride the drudging crowd :
For geniuses are ever proud.
He'd boast his flight 't were vain to follow,
For dog and horse he'd beat them hollow ;—
Nay, if he put forth all his strength,
Outstrip his brethren *half a length*.
A Tortoise heard his vain oration,
And vented thus his indignation :
“O Puss ! it bodes thee dire disgrace
When I defy thee to the race.
Come, 'tis a match : nay, no denial,
I lay my shell upon the trial.”
‘Twas “done” and “done,” all fair, “a bet,”
Judges prepared, and distance set.
The scampering Hare outstripp'd the wind ;
The creeping Tortoise lagg'd behind,
And scarce had pass'd a single pole,
When Puss had almost reach'd the goal.
“Friend Tortoise,” quoth the jeering Hare,
“Your burden's more than you can bear !
To help your speed it were as well
That I should ease you of your shell.
Jog on a little faster, prythee :
I'll take a nap and then be with thee.”
The Tortoise heard his taunting jeer,
But still resolved to persevere,

On to the goal securely crept,
While Puss unknowing soundly slept.
The bets were won, the Hare awoke,
When thus the victor Tortoise spoke:
"Puss, though I own thy quicker parts,
Things are not always done by starts.
You may deride my awkward pace,
But *slow* and *steady* wins the race."*

Heartily, *eagerly, cordially.*
Manure, *dung.*
Fuel, *firewood.*

AN ASS IS KNOWN BY HIS BRAYING.

IN the middle of a cold winter, a grumbling Ass wished heartily for the spring, that he might enjoy warm weather and a mouthful of fresh grass, instead of his cold shed, and the straw, which was his only food.

In a short time, according to his wish, spring weather and the fresh grass came on. But then, he had such hard work in carrying out manure to the field, that he was as tired of spring as he had been of winter. Now he longed for summer to come.

Summer came, indeed, but then came carting and other harvest-work, and more toiling and drudging than ever. So he began to think that autumn would bring him ease and happiness.

But autumn was still worse, for there were potatoes to be carried home, and apples to be taken to market; and last of all, turf and peat to be brought in for fuel; so that there was more work for him than ever.

* Lloyd.

Invite, *ask*.

Mood, *humor, temper*.

Appetite, *hunger*.

Hospitality, *kindness to strangers*.

To express one's regret, *to say one is sorry*.

Apologise, *make an excuse*.

Engagement, *word, promise, appointment*.

Do credit or justice to, *show oneself worthy of*.

Procure, *get*.

JESTS, LIKE SWEETMEATS, HAVE OFTEN SOUR SAUCE.

A Fox invited a Stork to dinner. Master Reynard, being in a merry mood, thought he would make fun of his guest. So, what did he provide for the feast but some thin soup in a shallow dish !

The Fox lapped up the whole dinner in a manner that did credit to his appetite, but certainly not so to his hospitality ; for the poor Stork, with his long, narrow bill, could not even taste the soup.

Meanwhile, Master Reynard kept expressing his regret that his flattered guest had so poor an appetite. And he even went so far as to apologise for the humble fare. The Stork kept a civil silence, and ended the conversation by returning the invitation for the following day.

The Fox did not fail to keep his engagement, as you may guess. Dinner was served up, and the Stork expressed a hope that Master Reynard would do justice to his humble fare.

" What is it ? " asked the rude Fox.

" Why, it is a fowl or two minced up in some of the best sauce I could procure."

Nothing could be more agreeable to Master Reynard's dainty palate. But, lo ! when he looked, he saw that it was all contained in a long-necked jar.

The Stork easily managed to help himself ; but, as for Master Reynard, he had to content himself with licking the outside of the jar. Shortly, away he went, with a bitter remark, and an empty stomach.

HONEST FOLKS NEED LITTLE WIT,
KNAVES MUCH.

A CAT, that ambah'd for some house-birds lay,
Swung itself, baglike, from a peg one day.
"Twas seen by a sagacious, shrewd-tongued Cock,
Which shrilly thus began the Cat to mock ;
"Full many bags I have noticed heretofore :
But none the grinders of a live cat bore."*

Appease, *satisfy*.
Make amends, *make up for, compensate*.
To promise well, *seem good*.
Sorry (hen), *thin and wretched*.
With a will, *briskly*.
Delicate, *dainty*.

EMPTY THINGS MAKE THE GREATEST
SOUND.

THERE was once a certain Fox, who eagerly searching about for something to appease his hunger, at length spied a Hen that was busy scratching the earth, and picking up worms, at the foot of a tree. Upon the same tree there also hung a drum, which, being tossed against the branches by the wind, made a frightful noise.

The Fox was just going to pounce upon the Hen, and make amends for a long fast, when he first heard the sounds of the drum. "Oh, oh!" quoth he, looking up, "are you there? I will silence you presently; for, whatever you are, the noise you make promises better than the bones of this sorry Hen." So saying, he made a spring at the drum; and, meanwhile, the Hen made her escape.

At length, down fell the drum, and the greedy and famished Fox seized his prey, and set to work with a will.

But when he had torn off the skin of the drum, and found there was nothing within but emptiness, fetching a deep sigh, he cried, "Unfortunate wretch that I am, what a delicate morsel have I lost, only for the show of a large bellyful!"

Deliberately, *carefully, considerately.*
Train of reflection, *line of thinking.*
Prove, *turn out, happen to be.*
Addled, *rotten.*
Fail to have, *not to succeed in having.*
Purchase, *buy.*
Complexion, *hue.*
Transported, *overjoyed.*
Imaginary, *fancied, not real.*

CATCH YOUR HARE BEFORE YOU COOK IT.

A COUNTRY Maid was walking very deliberately, with a pail of milk upon her head, when she fell into the following train of reflection : "The money for which I shall sell this milk will enable me to increase my stock of eggs to three hundred. These eggs, allowing for what may prove addled, and what may be destroyed by vermin, will produce at least two hundred and fifty chickens.

"The chickens will be fit to carry to market about Christmas, when poultry always bears a good price; so that by May-day I cannot fail to have money enough to purchase a new gown. Green—let me consider, yes, green becomes my complexion best, and green it shall be. In this dress I will go to the market, where I shall toss my head, like any lady in the town."

Transported with the bright prospect, she could not forbear acting with her head what thus passed in her imagination, when, smash! down came the pail of milk, and dashed to the ground all her imaginary happiness.

Poise, *balance*.
Muse, *think gravely*.
Detached, *taken away, subtracted*.
Prevent, *hinder, render impossible*.
Superciliously, *proudly, haughtily*.

THE MILKMAID.

A **MILKMAID**, who poised a full pail on her head,
Thus mused on her prospects in life, it is said ;
"Let me see—I should think that this milk will procure
One hundred good eggs, or fourscore, to be sure.

"Well then—stop a bit—it must not be forgotten,
Some of these may be broken, and some may be rotten ;
But if twenty for accident should be detach'd,
It will leave me just sixty sound eggs to be hatch'd.

"Well, sixty sound eggs—no, sound chickens, I mean :
Of these some may die—we'll suppose seventeen,
Seventeen ! not so many—say ten at the most,
Which will leave fifty chickens to boil or to roast.

"But then, there's their barley, how much will they need ?
Why they take but one grain at a time when they feed—
So that's a mere trifle ; now then, let us see,
At a fair market price how much money there'll be.

"Six shillings a pair—five—four—three-and-six,
To prevent all mistakes, that low price I will fix :
Now what will that make ? fifty chickens, I said—
Fifty times three-and-sixpence—I'll ask brother Ned.

"O ! but stop—three-and-sixpence a *pair* I must sell 'em ;
Well, a pair is a couple—now then let us tell 'em :
A couple in fifty will go—(my poor brain !)
Why just a score times, and five pair will remain.

"Twenty-five pair of fowls—now how tiresome it is
That I can't reckon up such money as this !
Well, there's no use in trying, so let's give a guess—
I'll say twenty pounds, and it can be no less.

"Twenty pounds, I am certain, will buy me a cow,
 Thirty geese and two turkeys—eight pigs and a sow;
 Now if these turn out well, at the end of the year,
 I shall fill both my pockets with guineas, 'tis clear."

Forgetting her burthen when this she had said,
 The maid superciliously toss'd up her head;
 When, alas! for her prospects—her milk-pail descended,
 And so all her schemes for the future were ended.

This moral, I think, may be safely attach'd,—
 "Reckon not on your chickens before they are hatch'd."*

Recess, *corner, hidden part.*
 Venture, *risk, endanger.*
 Succeed, *follow.*
 Fugitive, *one who has run away, deserter.*
 Imminent, *great, threatening, impending.*

NO EYE LIKE THE MASTER'S EYE.

A YOUNG Stag, chased from the recesses of the forest, strained every limb to escape the fury of his pursuers. He was so far blinded by his fears as to make up to the nearest farm, and run for shelter into the cow-house.

As he was crouching in the farthest corner of it, among the straw, "What do you mean, poor wretch!" said an honest Ox, "thus to run into the very jaws of death, and venture your life under the roof of a man?"

"Nay," cried the Stag, piteously, "only excuse my rudeness for a few hours, and then, as soon as the coast is clear, I'll make the best of my way home again."

The returning night soon succeeded the day, and in came the herdsman with a bundle of fodder, but he did not discover the trembling fugitive. All the rest of the servants came afterwards, in their turns, and passed and repassed without seeing him. Even the bailiff himself

* Jeffreys Taylor.

came into the stall, and saw no more than the others, so that the Stag, with a heart full of joy, began to thank the Oxen for their friendly silence, and for giving him house-room when he stood in so much need of it.

"Alas!" said one of them, "we wish you as well as you do yourself; but if the man who has a hundred eyes, should happen to pay us a visit, your life is still in imminent danger." The words were no sooner out of his mouth than in came the Master from his supper; and as he had lately taken notice that his oxen did not look so well as they had been used to do, "Hey-day!" said he, "what is the reason they have so little fodder? Besides, they have no litter, I see; and what a mighty trouble would it have been to have cleared away these cobwebs?"

While he thus pried into everything, he spied the branching horns of the Stag; and having called his men together, he ordered them to knock him on the head, and carry him off to enrich his larder.

Unawares, *accidentally*.

Plight, *state of distress*.

Regain, *get back again*.

Cleared, *leapt*.

Distinguish, *know one from another*.

Miscreant, *scoundrel*.

FOR A FLYING ENEMY MAKE A SILVER BRIDGE.

A PANTHER, who had fallen into a pit unawares, was observed by a company of Shepherds. Some of them pelted her with sticks, and others with stones; but a few of them on the contrary taking pity upon her (thinking she was already in a sad enough plight), threw her some pieces of bread to keep up her spirits.

Night, however, came on, and away they all went to their several houses, each one assuring himself that he should find her dead the next morning. But the poor

beast regaining her strength a little, cleared the pit by a nimble spring, and fled home to her den.

A few days after, out she rushed into the plain, butchered the cattle, murdered the Shepherds, and filled the whole country with dreadful marks of her rage. Even those who had shown so much pity, beginning to tremble for themselves, were willing to suffer any kind of damage, and begged for nothing but their lives. The Panther, however, thus comforted them: "I am not so much of a savage, but I can distinguish the men who pelted me with stones, from the men who supplied me with bread. You have therefore nothing to fear; for I return as an enemy only to those miscreants who insulted me in the hour of distress!"

Pains, *trouble*.

Man of fortune, *man of wealth*.

Handsomely, *highly*.

Repeat, *say*, or *do again*.

Insolence, *offensive, insulting behaviour*.

GIVE A FOOL BUT ROPE ENOUGH AND HE'LL HANG HIMSELF.

As honest Æsop was one day taking a walk, an idle young fellow threw a stone at him. "That's bravely done, my boy," said the old man, and then gave him a penny for his pains.

"Upon my word," said he, "I have no more about me at present, but I can easily show you where you may get plenty more. Do you see that gentleman there? I assure you he is a man of fortune. Now, if you'll only go and throw a stone at him as you did at me, I make no doubt but he'll reward you handsomely for your trouble."

The saucy fellow was fool enough to take his advice, but he presently found his mistake; for he had no sooner repeated his insolence, than he was taken up and thrown into jail.

*Galling, painful (so as to cut the skin).
Contemptible, beneath notice, despicable.*

EVERYBODY KNOWS HOW TO FIND FAULT.

A CONCEITED Fly, who sat upon the shaft of a carriage, thus insulted the Mule that drew it:—"What a lazy beast you are!" said she, "won't you move your legs a little faster? Take care, then, that I do not pinch your skin for you with my pointed sting."

"Thou trifling insect!" said the Mule, "whatever you can say is beneath my notice. The person I am afraid of is he who sits upon the box, and checks my speed with the galling reins. Away, then, with your trifling insolence; for I know when to hasten, and when to slacken my pace, without being directed by such a contemptible creature as you are."

*Direct, show the way.
Reprove, speak severely, upbraid.
Unmannerly, ill-bred, uncivil, rude.*

A MAN THAT BREAKS HIS WORD BIDS OTHERS BE FALSE TO HIM.

A Fox, hard pressed by the hounds, came up to a Man who was cutting wood, and begged him to show him some hiding-place. The Man directed the Fox to his own hut; so Reynard thankfully hastened to it, and hid himself in a corner.

The Hunters presently came up, and asked the wood-cutter whether he had seen a Fox pass that way. "No," said he; but, at the same time, he pointed to the hut. The Hunters, however, not understanding the hint, were off again immediately.

The Fox, seeing they had gone, was stealing off without saying a word of thanks, when the Man turned

sharply upon him and reproved him for his unmannerly behaviour. Reynard replied, "A fine fellow you are to expect me to say 'thank you' for nothing. Had your fingers been as honest as your tongue, you would have found me more civil. Hanging is too light a punishment for you, you double-faced knave."

FAIR WORDS, FOUL PLAY.

A Crow upon his perch was munching cheese,
 When a sly Fox by arguments like these,
 To suit herself, beguiled him of his prize:—
 "Fair are thy plumes, good Crow, and bright thine eyes,
 Charming thy neck, an eagle's breast thou hast,
 In talons thou art by no brute surpass'd.
 'Tis strange that dumb should be a bird so smart."
 The flatter'd Crow became elate in heart,
 And, cawing, from his mouth the cheese let fall;
 This Reynard snatch'd and tauntingly did call,
 "'Tis true thou wast not dumb, for thou canst speak,
 Yet spite of all thou hast, thy mind is weak."*

THINGS ARE SOON READY IN AN ORDERLY HOUSE.

ONCE on a time there was a Lad who went out to woo him a wife. Amongst other places, he came to a farmhouse where the household were little better than beggars; but when the wooer came in, they wanted to make out that they were well-to-do, as you may guess.

Now, the husband had a new arm to his coat. "Pray take a seat," he said to the wooer; "but there's a shocking dust in the house." So he went about rubbing and wiping all the benches and tables with his new sleeve, but he kept the other all the while behind his back.

* Davies.

The wife, she had got one new shoe, and she went stamping and sliding with it up against the stools and chairs, saying, "How untidy it is here! Everything is out of its place!"

Then they called out to their daughter to come down and put things to rights; but the daughter, she had got a new cap, so she put her head in at the door, and kept nodding, and nodding, first to this side, and then to that.

"Well! for my part," she said, "I can't be everywhere at once."

Ay, ay! that was a well-to-do household the wooer had come to.*

Summon, *call in*.

To have an eye to, *have one's attention fixed upon*.

Frequent, *numerous*.

Bring an action, *go to law*.

Aver, *state positively*.

SEEING, YET NOT SEEING.

AN old Woman, who had become blind, summoned the Doctor. He, having an eye to his fees, made his visits as frequent as possible. But, for every fee, the old Woman had to pawn another and another piece of furniture.

Well, the patient at last got so well, that she could see as well as ever. But, behold! every stick of her precious furniture was gone.

The old Woman then brought an action against the Doctor for having robbed her. The Judge asked her to state her case. So she thus addressed the Court:—

"It is true that I promised to pay this man if he cured my blindness. He avers that he has cured me, but I deny it. For, just before my illness came on, I could see all sorts of furniture in my house; now, however, I cannot see even a chair to sit upon."

* Norse Tales.

Consent, *agree*.

Refer a matter to, *ask advice of*.

Office, *duty, position*.

Produce, *bring forth*.

Reduce to a balance, *make even, or equal*.

Intricate, *difficult, complicated*.

Diminish, *lessen*.

Deliver, *hand over*.

FOOLS MAKE LAWYERS RICH.

Two Cats, having stolen some cheese, could not agree about dividing their prize. In order, therefore, to settle the dispute, they consented to refer the matter to a Monkey.

The proposed judge readily accepted the office; and producing a balance, put a piece of the cheese into each scale.

"Let me see," said he; "this lump outweighs the other." So he bit off a piece, "to reduce it to a balance," as he observed. The opposite scale had now become the heavier; which gave the judge reason for a second mouthful.

"Hold, hold," said the two Cats, who began to be alarmed, "give us our shares, and we are satisfied."

"If you are satisfied," returned the Monkey, "justice is not; a case of this intricate nature is by no means so soon settled." Upon which he continued to nibble first one piece, and then another; till the Cats, seeing their cheese gradually diminishing, entreated him to give himself no further trouble, but deliver to them what remained.

"Not so fast, I beseech you, friends," replied the Monkey; "we owe justice to ourselves as well as to you; what remains is due to me in right of my office." Upon which he crammed the whole into his mouth, and made off, leaving the poor Cats to comfort themselves as they best could.

Sage, *wise man.*
Ridicule, *laugh at.*
Wit, *clever joker.*
Critic, *one who judges another's work.*
Torture, *give pain to, exercise severely.*
Solve, *explain.*
At intervals, *now and then.*

A BOW SHOULD NOT ALWAYS BE STRUNG.

A CONCEITED Coxcomb seeing *Æsop* playing at marbles among a crowd of boys, made a sudden stop, and laughed at the old gentleman for a madman. As soon as the Sage perceived it, who was much fitter to ridicule others than to become an object of ridicule himself, he placed an unstrung bow in the middle of the road. He then addressed himself to the pretended wit: "Hark'ee," said he, "my friend, can you unriddle the meaning of what I have done?"

The people were surprised at the oddity of the affair, and flocked hastily about them. The vain critic, after torturing his brain to no purpose a long time, was forced to yield, and honestly confess that he could not solve the question.

"Well, then," said the Sage, with a modest air of triumph, "I must solve it for you. If you keep the bow always bent, you will soon break it, or destroy its force; but if you loosen the string at proper intervals, it will be fit for use as often as you want it."

To no purpose, *without result, in vain.*
Regard, *look upon.*
Revenge, *punish.*
Artifice, *trick.*
Enchant, *charm.*
Nectar, *sweet liquor.*

FORBID A FOOL A THING, AND THAT HELL DO.

A FOOLISH Grasshopper once took the liberty to ridicule a sober Owl, who used to fly in search of her food by night, and take her rest in the day-time in the hollow of a tree. The silly insect was desired to be silent, but all to no purpose; for she made a greater noise than before. The poor bird entreated her a second time to be quiet, but the vain fool only chirped the louder. At last, when the Owl saw that there was no help for it, and that all she could say was regarded as nothing, she revenged herself on the prattler by the following artifice:—"As the sweet-ness," said she, "of your song hath so much enchanted my drowsy ears, that it is not possible for me to sleep any longer, I am now resolved to open a bottle of nectar. And if you are not above my company, let me entreat you to honor me with a visit, that we may enjoy ourselves together."

The Grasshopper who was almost parched with thirst, no sooner heard her voice praised, than away she skipped towards the tree as nimbly as she could. But the Owl going out of her hollow nest, seized the noisy insect in a moment, and put her to death. Thus she was forced to yield by her death that favor, which she was too vain to submit to when alive.

*Liberality, giving away, generosity.
Covenant, agree, or bargain with.
Meed of healing, reward for curing.*

LIBERALITY IS NOT IN GIVING LARGELY, BUT IN GIVING WISELY.

A BONE in the Wolf's throat was firmly set;
Then covenanted he the Heron should get
A due reward, if, letting down his neck,
He'd draw the bone, and thus his suffering check.
The Heron extracted it, and claim'd his prize.
"Nay," said the Wolf with grinning teeth and eyes,
A meed of healing great enough you've found,
Your head from out of wolf's jaw safe and sound."

It is ill wages, when the bad you aid,
To take no hurt is to be well repaid.*

*Commit, do, perpetuate.
Repose, rest, sleep.
Into the bargain, besides, to boot.
Make advances to, seek the favor of.
Benevolent, kind, charitable. (Here used in jest.)
Individual, person.*

LET THOSE LAUGH WHO WIN.

"Of all the animals I was ever acquainted with," said a Falcon once to a Hen, "you are the most ungrateful."

"Why, what ingratitude," replied the Hen, "have you ever observed in me?"

"Can there be a greater piece of ingratitude," replied the Falcon, "than that which you commit in regard to men? By day they provide you with every nourishment to fatten you, and in the night you have a place always ready to roost in, where they take care to bar you up closely, that nothing may trouble your repose. Never-

theless, when they would catch you, you are forgetful of all their goodness, and basely endeavour to escape their hands.

"Look at me, wild as I naturally am, and a bird of prey into the bargain, when they make the smallest advances to me, I grow tame, allow myself to be taken, and never eat but what they choose to give me—and that out of their hands." *

"All this is very true," replied the Hen, "but I find you know not the reason of my behaviour. Here it is: You never saw a Falcon upon the spit, but I have seen a thousand Hens roasted and dressed up for the table of that same benevolent individual, called Man."

OLD BIRDS ARE NOT TO BE CAUGHT BY CHAFF.

A WEASEL, who was so much worn out with age, that she was not nimble enough to pursue the Mice as usual, rolled herself over and over in a heap of bran, and then dropped down carelessly in a dark corner. A thoughtless Mouse, supposing her to be what she seemed, leapt upon her with an eager spring, and was torn to pieces in an instant.

A second met with the same fate; and after him a third; but at last, after several others had been thus destroyed, out popped an old Mouse. She, by her caution, had escaped many a snare and many a trap, and perceiving at a distance what kind of a feast her crafty enemy had prepared for her—"Ha, ha!" said she, "and there you may lie for me, till the bran upon your back grows musty."

* In allusion to the employment of this bird for falconry or king.

(A ship) driving, *being driven.*
Exult, *rejoice.*
Checkered, *marked, diversified.*
Inconstant, *fickle, changeable.*

TAKE THE BITTER WITH THE SWEET.

A SHIP at sea, which had been driving some time before a furious storm, was exposed every moment to the mercy of the waves. The trembling Passengers bewailed their hard fate with many tears and sighs, and expected nothing but death.

But the weather suddenly cleared up, and the face of the ocean was covered with a smile. As the Mariners were exulting with joy at this happy change of their affairs, the wary Pilot, who had grown wise by experience, thus reproved their hasty mirth : " My good Lads," said he, " we ought to rejoice with caution, and complain without despair, for the life of man is checkered alternately with joy and grief. The smiles and frowns of fortune are alike inconstant."

A FOOL'S TONGUE IS LONG ENOUGH TO CUT HIS THROAT.

A CERTAIN man, who had lately come from abroad, was one day giving an account of his travels. " Among other places," said he, " I have been at Rhodes; and though that city, you know, is the most famous in the world for great leapers, yet I outdid them all. With a leaden weight in each hand, away I flew like a deer or greyhound, and cleared thirty good yards at least. Oh ! how the fools all gaped and stared to see themselves so much outdone in their own line. I thought I should have died with laughing at them."

As none of the boaster's friends gave him a word by way of answer, " Well, indeed !" said he, " what I have told you is all true; and if you do not choose to believe

me, only go to Rhodes, and you will find hundreds and hundreds who can tell you the same thing."

"Nay," said one of those who were in the room, "only suppose yourself to be at Rhodes this moment, and take the same leap over again, and then we shall be convinced of it without any farther trouble."

Stand by, *help, assist.*
Carcass, *dead body.*
Take notice, *notice, observe.*
Charged, *ordered.*

BETTER DO WELL THAN SAY WELL.

Two men, about to travel through a forest together, mutually promised to stand by each other in any danger they should happen to meet with. They had not gone far before a bear came rushing towards them out of a thicket. Upon this, one, being a light nimble fellow, got up into a tree; the other, falling flat upon his face and holding his breath, lay still, while the bear came up and sniffed at him. Now the creature, supposing him to be a dead carcass, went back again into the wood without doing him any harm.

When all was over, the one who had climbed up the tree, came down to his companion, and, with a pleasant smile, asked him what the bear had said to him, "For," said he, "I took notice that he put his mouth very close to your ear."

"Why," replied the other, "he charged me to take care for the future not to put trust in such a coward as you."

Harbour, *to lurk*; also, *keep hid*.
 Beyond your task, *so as to put yourself about*.
 Track, *foot-print, spoor*.

MOTHERS' DARLINGS MAKE MILK-SOP HEROES.

A HUNTER once who courage lack'd,
 In the hill forests dense his game had track'd;
 A woodman near a tall fir met his view,
 Whom by the nymphs he pray'd, if aught he knew,
 To point the wild beast's steps, that harboured near.
 The other said, "Good luck has brought you here!
 The lion's self to you I'll quickly show."
 Pale, and with chattering teeth, he cried, "No, no!
 Pray don't oblige me, friend, beyond your task!
 To see the lion's track, not him, I ask."

Foraging, *in search of food*.
 Their several quarters, *each to his lodging*.
 Take to task, *charge, accuse*.
 Obsequious, *sneaking, cringing*.
 Protest, *say positively, aver*.
 Restrain, *keep back*.
 Regard, *liking, respect*.
 Capable of, *able to do*.
 Scruple, *hesitate*.
 Plea, *excuse, defence*.
 Penitence, *regret, contrition, repentance*.
 Frank, *free, straightforward, candid*.
 Criminal, *one who commits a crime*.

THE FARMER AND HIS THREE ENEMIES.

A WOLF, a Fox, and a Hare, happened one evening to be foraging in different parts of a farm-yard. Their first effort was pretty successful, and they returned safely to their several quarters. But the Farmer, who had watched them, laid his snares, and, the next time, made them all prisoners. He first took the Hare to task, who confessed she had eaten a few turnip-tops, merely to satisfy her hunger, and, beseeching him piteously to spare her life, promised never to enter his grounds again.

He then accosted the Fox, who, in a fawning, obsequious tone, protested that he came into the premises through no other motive than pure good will, to restrain the hares and other vermin from the plunder of his corn. Whatever evil tongues may say, he had too great a regard both for him and for fair play to be capable of any dishonest action.

Last of all, the Farmer questioned the Wolf. The Wolf impudently declared, it was with the view of destroying his lambs, to which he had an undoubted right; that the Farmer himself was the robber, for he took from wolves what was meant to be their proper food. This was his opinion; and whatever might be the consequence, he should not scruple to risk his life in pursuit of his lawful prey.

The Farmer, having heard their pleas, determined their cause in the following manner:—"The Hare," said he, "deserves pardon for the humble penitence she shows, and the frank confession she has made. As for the Fox and the Wolf, let them be hanged together. Criminals alike with respect to the fact, they have both heightened their guilt, the one by hypocrisy, the other by impudence."

Domestic, relating to home.

Injury, hurt, harm, damage.

Call to account, make to answer for, or render responsible.

Comparison, contrast, difference.

Obstinacy, continuance in one's own opinion or line of action.

NEVER PROMISE WHAT YOU CANNOT PERFORM.

Two Birds once lived together upon the shores of the Indian sea. After they had long enjoyed the pleasures of domestic affection, said the Female to the Male, "It is time for me to choose a proper place wherein to lay my eggs."

To whom the Male replied, "This, where we now are, is, I think, a very good place."

"No," replied the Female, "this cannot do; for the sea may hereafter swell beyond these bounds, and the waves carry away my eggs."

"That can never be," said the Male; "nor dares the Prince of the Sea do me an injury; for, if he should, he knows I would certainly call him to account."

"You should never boast," replied the Female, "of a thing which you are not able to perform. What comparison is there between you and the Prince of the Sea? Take my advice; avoid such quarrels; and, if you despise my advice, take care you are not ruined by your obstinacy. Remember the misfortune that befel the Tortoise."

"It is a story I have not heard," replied the Male; "pray tell it me."

Constrained, *forced, compelled.*
 Habitation, *place of abode, dwelling.*
 Impending, *hanging over, threatening.*
 Destruction, *ruin.*
 Preservation, *avoidance of destruction.*
 Undertake, *take upon, promise to do.*
 Exhort, *strongly advise, or admonish.*
 Inhabitant, *one who lives in a place.*
 Novelty, *newness, strangeness.*
 Impatient, *too eager, restless.*
 Atoms, *small pieces.*

THE TORTOISE AND THE TWO DUCKS.

"There was a Tortoise," continued the Female Bird, "that lived in a pond with some Ducks. These were her old companions, and they had all lived in full content and happiness for many years. But, at length, there happened so dry a season, that all the water in the pond was dried up.

"The Ducks, upon this, finding themselves constrained to remove to some other habitation, went to the Tortoise to take leave of him. The Tortoise, in terror for his

impending destruction, upbraided them for leaving him in this time of need, and besought them to carry him along with them.

"To which the Ducks replied, 'Be assured it is a great grief to us that we must leave you in this plight, but we must do so for our own preservation. And, as to what you propose to us, to take you with us, we have a long journey to make; and you cannot accompany us, because you cannot fly.'

"'On one condition, however, it is possible for us to save you, if you can only be so much your own friend as to follow our advice.'

"'Well, what is that?' asked the Tortoise, eagerly.

"'It is that you keep a strict silence during the journey. On that condition alone can we undertake to carry you. We shall, doubtless, meet with some that will talk to us, and then it is ten to one but you will be twattling. If you do, remember that we now tell you beforehand, it will be your destruction.'

"'No,' answered the Tortoise, 'don't be afraid. I will do whatever you like, so as you get me out of this muddy hole.'

"Things being thus settled, the Ducks ordered the Tortoise to take a little stick in his mouth, and hold it fast by the middle. Then, exhorting him to keep steady, they took the stick by each end, and so raised him aloft.

"Thus they carried him along in triumph. So far, well; but by-and-by, they found themselves flying over a village. Now, the inhabitants, wondering at the novelty of the sight, fell a-shouting with all their might. This made such a noise, that the Tortoise grew impatient to be twattling. At length, not being able to keep silence any longer, he was going to wish the people's mouths sewed up, for making such a clamor; but just as he was opening his mouth to tell his mind—flop! down he fell to the ground, and got smashed to atoms!"

GRATITUDE.

A NOBLE Lion, who was faint with heat, and weary with hard hunting, lay down to refresh himself with a nap at the entrance of a large cave. While he was asleep, a number of mice ran over his back and waked him.

Upon this, starting up in a rage, and clapping his paw on one of them, "You little scrambling rogue," said he, "how came you to be so bold as to disturb my rest? But I warrant you I will put an end to your saucy pranks for all time to come."

"Indeed, sir," said the little creature, "I meant no harm. Upon my word and honor I did not. Besides, sir, you see I am a Mouse; and it would be a great disgrace to such a noble beast as the monarch of the forest to take his revenge on such a little thing as I am."

The good Lion could not help laughing at his excuse; but as he thought a little mouse was but a small moushful, he was content to let him go.

Not long after, as the same Lion was roaming over the forest, in search of his prey, he had the ill luck to run into a strong net, which had been laid for him by the hunters. Not being able to force his way out of it, down he fell, and set up such a fearful roar as made the ground tremble under him. The poor Mouse, knowing the voice in a moment, ran as fast as he could to see what was the matter.

When he came to the spot, and beheld the noble Lion foaming at the mouth with rage, "Come, noble sir," said he, "let me beg of you not to disturb yourself; but lie still a minute or two, your poor little scrambling rogue will set you free, or die for it!"

The Mouse was as good as his word; for to work he went in an instant, and with his sharp little teeth gnawed in two the knots and meshes of the net, and left the noble Lion to go where he pleased.

INGRATITUDE.

BLOW, blow thou winter wind,
Thou art not so unkind
As man's ingratitude ;
Thy tooth is not so keen,
Because thou art not seen,
Although thy breath be rude.

FREEZE, freeze, thou bitter sky,
Thou dost not bite so nigh
As benefits forgot ;
Though thou the waters warp,
Thy sting is not so sharp
As friend remember'd not.*

IMPUDENCE IS ONE THING, WIT ANOTHER.

AN Eagle from the top of a lofty mountain, once making a stoop at a Lamb, pounced at it in a moment with her talons, and flew away with it to her young ones. A foolish Crow, who had built her nest in a cedar, at the foot of the same mountain, taking notice of what passed, said to herself, "That is mighty clever, indeed. But I believe I can do as well myself, were I to try it;" and with that, down she flew, and fixed her claws in the fleece of a second Lamb.

But being able neither to carry off the prey, nor to clear her feet from the fleece, there she sat, looking like a fool, till at last she was taken off by the shepherd, and carried home for his children to play with.

When they asked him what bird it was—"Why, about an hour or two ago," said he, "the silly wretch thought she was an Eagle, but by this time, I believe, she is pretty sure she is only a Crow!"

* Shakespeare.

APPEARANCES ARE OFTEN DECEPTIVE.

A SILLY young Mouse who had seen but little of the world, came running one day to his mother like a wild thing. "Help me, dear mother," said he, "I am almost frightened to death! I have seen the most dreadful creature that ever my eyes beheld. He has a fierce look, and struts about on two legs; on his head grows a strange piece of flesh, and a second under his throat, as red as blood. He flapped his arms against his sides in a great rage, and then, stretching out his head, he screamed at me with such a shrill and frightful voice, that I trembled in every joint, and was glad to run away as fast as my legs could carry me.

"If I had not been scared as I was by this ugly monster, I should have paid my respects to the sweetest creature in the world. She had a nice fur skin on her back, finely streaked with black and grey; and her looks were so modest and humble that I thought in my heart I could have fallen in love with her. Besides this, the dear creature had a fine long tail, which she tossed about with such an air, and with a look so very earnest, and so wishful, that I believe she was just going to speak to me, if that horrid monster had not scared me away."

"Ah! my dear child," said the mother, "you have indeed had a narrow escape; not from that horrid monster you were so much afraid of, who in truth was only a harmless fowl, called a Cock; but from the dear sweet creature, with whose beauty you were so much smitten. The dreadful Cat looks, it is true, gentle and demure; but, with no other view than to feast herself on the flesh of mice."

"Oh! what a deceitful brute she must be!" cried Miss Mousey, with a shudder.

Imperious, commanding.
Dispute, wrangle about, argue.
Engagement, encounter, fight.
Military, relating to the army.
Reverse, turn.
Arrogance, haughty pride.

PRIDE WILL HAVE A FALL.

A **FINE** Horse, adorned with his warlike trappings, came thundering along the way, making the mountains echo with his shrill neighing. He had not gone far before he overtook an **Ass**, who was laboring under a heavy burden, and moving slowly on in the same track with himself.

Immediately he called out to him, in a haughty, imperious tone, and threatened to trample him in the dirt, if he did not make way for him. The poor patient **Ass**, not daring to dispute the matter, quietly got out of his way as fast as he could, and let him go by.

Not long after this, the same Horse, in an engagement with the enemy, happened to be shot in the eye, which made him unfit for show, or any military business; so he was stripped of his fine ornaments, and sold to a carrier.

The **Ass**, meeting him one day in this forlorn condition, was too forgiving to insult him in his reverse of fortune; but could not help reflecting at the same time on the just punishment of his arrogance.

THE PAPER KITE.

ONCE on a time a Paper Kite
 Had mounted to a wondrous height,
 Where, giddy with its elevation,
 It thus express'd self-admiration :—

“ See, how yon crowds of gazing people
 Admire my flight above the steeple!
 How would they wonder, if they knew
 All that a kite like me can do !

Were I but free, I'd take a flight,
 And pierce the clouds beyond their sight :
 But ah ! like a poor pris'ner bound,
 My string confines me near the ground :
 I'd brave the eagle's tow'ring wing,
 Might I but fly without a string ?"
 It tugg'd and pull'd, while thus it spoke,
 To break the string—at last it broke.
 Depriv'd at once of all its stay,
 In vain it tried to soar away ;
 Unable its own weight to bear,
 It flutter'd downwards through the air :
 Unable its own course to guide,
 The wind soon plunged it in the tide.
 Ah ! foolish Kite ; thou hadst no wing !
 How couldst thou fly without a string ?*

Current, *flow*.

Navigable, *large enough to float ships*.

Distribute, *spread*.

Majestically, *grandly, nobly*.

Tribute, *tax*.

Considerable, *of a fair size*.

Sufficiency, *supplies* ; (*self-sufficiency, conceit*).

THE TWO RIVALS.

Two Springs which issued from the same mountain began their course together : one of them took her way in a silent and gentle flowing stream, while the other rushed along with a noisy and rapid current.

" Sister," said the latter, " at the rate you move, you will probably be dried up before you advance much farther. As to myself, I shall probably become navigable within two or three miles of this. After distributing wealth wherever I flow, I shall majestically proceed to pay my tribute to the ocean. So farewell ! and patiently submit yourself to your fate."

Her quiet sister made no reply ; but, calmly descending to the meadows below, she increased her stream by numberless little rills, which she collected in her progress, till, at length, she became a considerable river.

On the other hand, the proud stream, who had the vanity to depend solely upon her own sufficiency, continued a shallow brook ; and was glad, at last, to be helped forward, by throwing herself into the arms of her despised sister.

THE LAKE AND THE RIVER.

Lake. River, why dost thou go by,
Sounding—rushing—sweeping ?

River. Lake, why dost thou ever lie
Listless—idle—sleeping ?

Lake. Naught before my power could stand,
Should I spring to motion.

River. I go blessing all the land,
From my source to ocean.

Lake. I show sun, and stars, and moon,
On my breast untroubled.

River. Ay ! and wilt thou not as soon
Make the storm-cloud doubled ?

Lake. River, River, go in peace ;
I'll no more reprove thee !

River. Lake, from pride and envy cease :
May no earthquake move thee !

Lake. I, a higher power obey—
Lying still, I'm doing.

River. I, for no allurement stay,
My great end pursuing.

Lake. Speed thee, speed thee, River bright ;
Let not earth oppose thee.

River. Rest thee, Lake, in all thy might,
Where thy hills inclose thee.

Lake. River, hence, we're done with strife,
Knowing each our duty.

River. And in brisk or silent life,
Each may shine in beauty.

Both. While we keep our places thus,
Adam's sons and daughters,
Ho! behold, and learn of us,
Still and running waters.

Vapor, *smoke, moist air, steam.*
(Mud) settles, *falls down, precipitates.*
Beneficent, *generous, free-handed.*
Encompassed, *surrounded.*

THE BROOK, AS AN IMAGE OF DIVINE LOVE.

OBSERVE the course of that Brook, said a teacher to his scholars. It pursues its quiet path through valley and meadow, and reflects in the bright mirror of its waters the image of the blue sky above. It waters the trees and shrubs which grow upon its banks, and its cool vapor refreshes the flowers and plants around it.

Again it flows through a barren, sandy wild; there it ends its course. Still, however, it remains the same clear and refreshing stream, though there be no objects to receive its blessings.

And now a wild boar rushes into the stream, and splashes about in its lovely waters. These supply the animal with drink, and cool his burning sides, and the mud which he has raised from the bottom settles again of itself.

Next, a weary traveller bends over the bank of the rivulet; it quenches his thirst and cools his fevered brow, and he pursues his way refreshed and happy.

Where is the source and spring of this beneficent stream?

Look up yonder. Do you see that towering peak, and yonder cavern encompassed with rocks? There, far in the bosom of the earth, is the hidden spring of the rivulet.

Whence, then, came its inexhaustible source?

Behold! the mountain top raises itself towards heaven, enveloped in dewy clouds.

Where is the end and final destination of the stream?

It advances with gradually increased strength until it is received into the arms of the mighty Ocean, and thence it returns to heaven, whence it first descended.*

THE COTTAGER AND HIS LANDLORD.

A PEASANT to his Lord paid yearly court,
 Presenting pippins of so rich a sort,
 That he, displeased to have a part alone,
 Removed the tree, that all might be his own.
 The tree, too old to travel, though before
 So fruitful, withered, and would yield no more.
 The Squire, perceiving all his labor void,
 Cursed his own pains, so foolishly employed:
 And, "Oh!" he cried, "that I had lived content
 With tribute, small indeed, but kindly meant!
 My avarice has expensive proved to me,
 And cost me both my pippins and my tree."†

Rail at, *quarrel with, mock at.*
 Excellence, *superiority.*
 Appreciate, *know the worth or value of.*
 Faculties, *powers, abilities.*
 Benefit, *good.*

NOBODY THINKS HIMSELF WISE BUT A FOOL.

AN Owl once complained of the brightness of the sun. "What is the use of its beams," said she, "but to dazzle one's eyes, so that one cannot see a mouse? For my part, I am at a loss to conceive for what purpose so glaring an object was created. We should certainly have been much better without it."

"O fool!" replied an Eagle, perched on a branch of the same tree, "to rail at excellence which thou canst not appreciate! The fault is not in the sun but in thyself. All, it is true, have not faculties to understand, nor powers to enjoy the benefit of it; but must the business of the world come to a full stop, in order that an Owl may catch mice?"

Abettor, *one who encourages.*
 Weapon of offence, *i.e., sword, &c.*
 Design, *intention.*
 Excite, *rouse.*

THE ABETTOR WORSE THAN THE CRIMINAL.

A TRUMPETER in a certain army happened to be taken prisoner. On being ordered for immediate execution, he pleaded in excuse for himself, that it was unjust a person should suffer death, who, far from intending to do mischief, did not even wear a weapon of offence.

"So much the rather," replied one of the enemy, "shalt thou die; since, though without any design of fighting thyself, thou art the means of exciting thousands of others to the act."

Collected, *assembled*.

Perform a feat, *do something wonderful*.

Mimic, *imitat.*

Audience, *hearers*, or *lookers on*.

Extravagant, *excessive*, *unbounded*.

Applause, *expressions of favor or approbation*.

Prepossessed, *the mind made up beforehand*.

PASTE OFTEN PREFERRED TO DIAMONDS.

ONCE on a time a crowd of people were collected to see a grand feat performed. There they waited in silent expectation. On a sudden, the performer thrust down his head into his bosom, and mimicked the squeaking of a young pig so naturally, that the audience declared he had one under his cloak, and ordered him to be searched. When this had been done, and nothing was discovered, they loaded the man with the most extravagant applause.

A country fellow, observing what passed : "Oh," said he, "I can do this better than he can," and immediately gave out that he would perform next day. Accordingly, greater crowds assembled : prepossessed, however, in favor of the first performer, they sat prepared to laugh at the clown, rather than to judge fairly of his performance.

They both came upon the stage. The mimic grunted away first, and was received with vast applause and the loudest shouts. Then the countryman, who, in fact, had concealed a little pig under his clothes, pinched the ear of the animal till he made him squeak. The people exclaimed aloud that the first performer had imitated the pig much more naturally, and would have hissed the countryman off the stage. But he quietly produced the real pig from his bosom, thus convincing them by a visible proof of their absurd error: "See, ladies and gentlemen," said he, "what fine judges you are!"

Foe, *enemy*.

Conqueror, *he who beats, or vanquishes*.

Reply in the negative, *say no*; opp. reply in the affirmative, *say yes*.

One master may be as good
as another.

An old man was once feeding his ass in a meadow, when he suddenly heard the sound of foes, and thereupon advised the ass to take to flight.

But the latter answered, "Tell me first, I pray, will the conquerors put on me double pack-saddles?"

The old man replied in the negative. "Why, then, should I fly," rejoined the ass; "or what matter is it whom I serve, so that I carry only my own saddles?"

Agony, great pain.
Effectually, completely.
Entertainment, refreshment, feast.
Grimaces, odd and ugly faces.
Dessert, fruit, &c. (as the end to dinner).
Anguish, great grief.
Secure, lay hold of.
Dependent, one who lives upon charity.

FLATTERY SITS IN THE PARLOR, PLAIN-DEALING IS KICKED OUT OF DOORS.

A POOR little Mouse, being half starved, ventured one day to steal from behind the wainscot while the family were at dinner, and trembling all the while, picked up a few crumbs which were scattered on the ground. She was soon observed, however: everybody was immediately alarmed. Some called for the cat; others took up whatever was at hand, and endeavoured to kill her. The poor terrified animal was driven round the room in an agony of terror.

At length, however, she was fortunate enough to gain her hole, where she sat panting with fatigue. When the family were again seated, a Lap-Dog and a Monkey came into the room. The former jumped into the lap of his mistress, fawned upon every one of the children, and so effectually, that he was rewarded with some of the best morsels of the entertainment. The Monkey, on the other hand, forced himself into notice by his grimaces. He played a thousand little mischievous tricks, and was regaled, at the appearance of the dessert, with plenty of nuts and apples.

The unfortunate little Mouse, who saw from her hiding-place everything that passed, sighed in anguish of heart, and said to herself, "Alas! how ignorant was I, to imagine that poverty and distress were enough to secure the charity of the wealthy. I now find that whoever is not master of fawning and buffoonery, is but ill qualified for a dependent, and will not be allowed even to pick up the crumbs that fall from the table."

Summon, *call to appear.*
Prefer (a claim), *bring forward, submit a demand.*
Illustrious, *high, noble.*
Urge, *press upon the notice.*
Argument, *plea.*
Contention, *disputing, wrangling.*
Revelry, *wild merriment.*
Prematurely, *before the natural time.*
Bring up the rear, *close the procession.*
Pretenders, *quacks.*
Vie, *emulate.*

THE COURT OF DEATH.

DEATH, the king of terrors, determined to choose a prime minister ; and his pale courtiers, the ghastly train of Diseases, were all summoned to attend, when each preferred his claim to the honor of this illustrious office. Fever urged the numbers he destroyed ; cold Palsy set forth his pretensions by shaking all his limbs ; and Dropsey by his swelled, unwieldy carcass.

Gout hobbled up, and alleged his great power in racking every joint ; and Asthma's inability to speak was a strong, though silent, argument in favor of his claim ; Plague pleaded his rapid power of destroying ; Consumption insisted that, though slow, he was sure.

In the midst of this contention, the court was disturbed with the noise of music, dancing, feasting, and revelry ; when immediately a lady entered, with a bold and jovial air. She was attended by a troop of youths and damsels, all very merry and uproarious. A crowd of people, pale and shaky and prematurely old, brought up the rear. Her name was INTEMPERANCE.

She waved her hand, and thus addressed the crowd of Diseases : " Give way, ye sickly band of pretenders, nor dare to vie with me in the service of this great monarch. Am I not the author of you all ? Do ye not derive your power of shortening human life almost wholly from me ? Who, then, so fit as myself for this important office ? " The monarch grinned a smile of approbation, placed her at his right hand, and she immediately became his prime favorite and chief minister.

Dominion, *country governed.*

Desolation, *act of destroying.*

Perpetual, *continual, constant.*

Tyranny, *harsh government.*

Vizier, *prime minister.*

Dervise, *wise man, living alone as a hermit.*

Marriage-portion, *dowry* (money brought by a bride)

Touched, *affected, moved.*

THE SULTAN AND HIS VIZIER.

We are told that the Sultan Mahmoud, by his perpetual wars abroad, and his tyranny at home, had filled his dominions with ruin and desolation, and half unpeopled the Persian empire. The Vizier to this great Sultan pretended to have learned of a certain Dervise to understand the language of birds, so that there was not a bird that could open his mouth, but the Vizier knew what it was he said.

As he was one evening with the Emperor, on their return from hunting, they saw a couple of owls upon a tree that grew near an old wall. "I would fain know," says the Sultan, "what those two owls are saying to one another,—listen to them, and tell me what they say."

The Vizier approached the tree, pretending to be very attentive to the two owls. Upon his return to the Sultan, "Sir," says he, "I have heard part of their conversation, but dare not tell you what it is."

The Sultan would not be satisfied with such an answer, but forced him to repeat, word for word, everything the owls had said.

"You must know, then," said the Vizier, "that one of these owls has a son, and the other a daughter, between whom they are now upon a treaty of marriage. The father of the son said to the father of the daughter, in my hearing, 'Brother, I consent to this marriage, provided you will settle upon your daughter fifty ruined villages for her portion.' To which the father of the daughter replied, 'Instead of fifty, I will give her five hundred, if please. God grant a long life to Sultan Mahmoud!'

While he reigns over us, we shall never want ruined villages."

The story says, the Sultan was so touched with the fable, that he rebuilt the towns and villages which had been destroyed, and from that time forward consulted the good of his people.*

Specimen, *sample*.
Agility, *activity*.

CAST NOT PEARLS BEFORE SWINE.

A BEAR, who for a long time had been obliged to gain his bread by dancing, at last made his escape, and returned to his old abode. The bears greeted him with brotherly kisses, and set up a joyful growl through the forest. And when one bear met another, he would call out, "Peto is come again!" One day the bear began to relate to his friends the adventures which he had met with in foreign lands what he had seen—heard—done! And when he spoke of his dancing, he could not refrain from showing them a specimen of his skill.

His brethren, who saw him dance, admired his agility, and the fine turn of his limbs; and at last they attempted to follow his example. Instead, however, of dancing like him, they could not even keep their feet, and were soon stretched all their length on the ground.

The more the dancer showed himself, the more his skill vexed them, and at last they exclaimed with one voice, "Away, away with thee, thou fool! wouldest thou then be wiser than us?" The bear was obliged to run off.†

* Spectator.

† Fables and Parables.

SERMONS IN SWALLOWS.

"How provoking!" said Betty, as she stood with her long broom in her hand under the parlor window.

"What's the matter?" said the Vicar, looking out of it.

"Why, Sir, these swallows!" said Betty: "four times this summer I have knocked down their nests. They *will* build under the slates just above, and they give me so much trouble, I've no patience with them."

"Four times! Are you sure they have begun again four times?" said the Vicar, with interest.

"Sure enough, Sir; they got the start of me, and finished their nests the first time before I noticed them; then I knocked them down with the long rake: but, in two days, John came to tell me they had got a good way on with new ones. I soon destroyed them; but if they didn't begin again that very evening, and the next morning I had a good piece to clear away. I thought that would tire them out, and didn't look for a time; but right in the very same place, when I did look, were the two nests built up to the top. This shall be the last time, I said, and I smashed 'em to atoms; and away flew all the birds, pretty well scared. But the obstinate, perverse things won't be conquered; here they are again, the nests more than half made. Please, Sir, might John have the gun to shoot them?"

"Oh no, Betty!" said the Vicar, "by no means."

"Then, Sir, I can never get rid of them."

"Don't attempt it, Betty," said the Vicar, who had listened with much attention to her complaints; "let them dwell in peace where they have had such trial of patience in building. I wish I may preach as useful a sermon next Sunday as their example has preached to me to-day."

Betty looked amazed! "Not knock them down, Sir?" she asked, in a tone of vexed surprise.

"No; don't touch them. Every time they twitter they will remind me of the text, '*Faint not.*' They have gained their parish, and are under my protection; so, take away your broom, Betty," said the Vicar, with a smile, as he closed the window.

"Ah!" said Betty, as she watched his white head disappearing, "it's all very good, I dare say; but master hasn't got to clean the windows."

No, master had not, but he had trying lessons of patience with a parish full of stubborn hearts, and had often been tempted to cry out in despair, "It is enough, I will no longer work here; it is not my place."

Joyfully, therefore, did he take the hint from the Swallows, and determined to build on, saying to himself, "Perhaps one more season of patient labor, and like them I may gain my parish."*

Consternation, *despair*.

Crevice, *corner*.

Plea, *excuse*.

Atone for, *pay or compensate for*.

Defraud, *cheat*.

Secrete, *conceal*.

THE MISER AND THE MAGPIE.

As a Miser sat at his desk, counting over his heaps of gold, a Magpie, hopping from his cage, picked up a guinea, and hastened away with it. The Miser, who never failed to count his money a second time, immediately missed a piece, and rising from his seat in the utmost consternation, observed the bird hiding it in a crevice of the floor.

"And art thou," cried he, "that worst of thieves, who hast robbed me of my gold without the plea of necessity,

* *Leisure Hour.*

and without regard to its proper use ? But thy life shall atone for thy theft."

" Softly, good master," said the Magpie. " Have I then injured you in any other sense than you defraud the public ? and am I not using your money in the same manner as you do yourself ? If I must lose my life for hiding a single guinea, what do you deserve, who secrete so many thousands ? "

Office, *duty*.

Determine, *resolve*.

Scare, *frighten*.

A BRAGGART CANNOT IMPOSE ON THOSE WHO KNOW HIM.

A LION, in one of his merry humors, took a fancy to hunt with an Ass ; and, to make the better sport, he gave him orders to hide himself in a thicket, and there tune up his pipes, and bray as loud as he was able.

As the Ass was very proud of the office, he determined to try his utmost. As soon as he had gone to his post, he began to bray in such a frightful manner that the forest was filled with the echo of his horrid notes. The rest of the beasts, not knowing what to make of it, began to run off like so many mad creatures ; so that the Lion, who had taken care to conceal himself in a proper place, was able to seize and devour them as fast as he pleased.

When the hunt was over, and the Lion had eaten his fill, out ran the Ass, and coming up to the noble beast with an air of conceit—" Well, Sir," said he, " and pray what do you think of me now ? Did I not perform my part like a hero ? "

" Why, to speak the truth," said the Lion, " I must confess you made such a monstrous noise, that if I had not known who you were I might have been scared by it myself."

Affront, say or do something offensive to another, insult.

Elements, namely, fire, air, earth, water.

Quadruped, four-footed animal.

Disdainfully, mockingly, scornfully.

Make a figure, show well.

Beholders, lookers-on.

THE GOOSE AND THE HORSE.

A **Goose**, who was snipping grass on a common, thought herself affronted by a **Horse**, who fed near her. In hissing accents she thus addressed him :—“ I am certainly a more noble and perfect animal than you, for you have to do with but one element. I can walk upon the ground as well as you ; I have besides wings, with which I can raise myself in the air. When I please, I can sport in ponds and lakes, and refresh myself in the cool waters. I enjoy the different powers of a bird, a fish, and a quadruped.”

The **Horse**, snorting somewhat disdainfully, replied, “ It is true you inhabit three elements, but you make no very great figure in any one of them. You fly, indeed, but your flight is so heavy and clumsy, that you have no right to put yourself on a level with the lark or the swallow.

“ You can swim on the surface of the waters, but you cannot live in them as fishes do ; you cannot find your food in that element, nor make your way under the surface. And when you walk, or rather waddle, upon the ground, with your broad feet, and your long neck stretched out, hissing at every one who passes by, you bring upon yourself the laughter of all beholders.

“ I confess that I am only formed to move upon the ground ; but how graceful is my make ! how well turned my limbs ! how highly finished my whole body ! how great my strength ! how astonishing my speed ! I would far rather be confined to one element, and be admired in that, than be a **Goose** in all.”

Victuals, food, provisions.
Savory, pleasant, agreeable.
Purchase, buy.
Unreasonable, without reason, by far too much, exorbitant.
Refer to, lay before.
Regale, refresh.
Odor, smell, aroma.
Insatiable, greedy.
Decision, opinion, conclusion, judgment.
Satisfaction, pleasure, gratification.

A RIGHT DECISION.

A POOR Chimney-sweep, who had not enough money to buy himself a dinner, stopped one day before an eating-house, and remained regaling his nose with the smell of the victuals. The master of the shop told him several times to go away, but the Sweep could not leave the savory smell, though unable to purchase the taste.

At last the Cook came out of the shop, and taking hold of him, declared that, as he had been feeding upon the smell of his victuals, he should not go away without paying half the price of a dinner. The poor little fellow said, that he neither could nor would pay, and that he would ask the first person who should pass, whether it was not an unreasonable and unjust demand.

A Police-officer happening to come up at that moment, the case was referred to him. He said to the Sweep, "My boy, as you have been regaling one of your senses with the odor of this man's meat, it is but just you should make him some payment. Therefore you shall, in your turn, regale one of his senses, which appears more insatiable than your appetite. How much money have you?"

"I have but two-pence in all the world, Sir, and I must buy myself some bread."

"Never mind," said the Officer, "take your two-pence between your hands. Now rattle them loudly." The boy did so, and the Officer, turning to the Cook, said, "Now, Sir, I think he has paid you: the smell of your victuals

regaled his nostrils, the sound of his money has tickled your ears."

The decision gave more satisfaction to the by-standers than to the Cook, but it was the only payment he could obtain.

Decide, *give an opinion or judgment, determine.*

Propose, *suggest.*

Dispute, *one to say one thing, another another; argue, wrangle.*

Subject, *whatever we are talking or writing about, matter.*

A WRONG DECISION.

EDGAR was a little boy of very good dispositions, and a kind temper. He had several masters, who tried to teach him everything that was good; and he was brought up with several little boys about his own age. One evening, his father asked him what he had done or learnt that day.

"Sir," said Edgar, "I was punished to-day for deciding unjustly."

"How so?" said the father.

"There were two boys, one of whom was a great and the other a little boy. Now, it happened that the little boy had a coat that was much too big for him; but the great boy had one that scarcely reached below his middle, and was too tight for him every way. Well, the big boy proposed to the little boy to change coats with him. 'For,' said he, 'we shall be both exactly fitted; as your coat is as much too big for you as mine is too little for me.'

"The little boy would not agree to this; on which the great boy took his coat away by force, and gave his own to the little boy in exchange.

"While they were disputing upon this subject, I chanced to pass by, and they agreed to make me judge of the affair. I decided that the little boy should keep the little coat, and the great boy the great one, for which judgment my master punished me."

"Why so?" said Edgar's father; "was not the little coat most proper for the little boy, and the large coat for the great boy?"

"Yes, sir," answered Edgar, "but my master told me that I was not made judge to find which coat best fitted either of the boys, but to say whether it was just that the great boy should take away the coat of the little one against his will. I therefore decided unjustly, and deserved to be punished."

Foreigner, one who belongs to another country.

Sovereign, a pound in gold.

Scoundrel, a bad man, cheat, rogue.

Relate, tell, narrate.

THE BITER BITTEN.

A FRENCHMAN in Westphalia finding the winter approach, and knowing that in that country it is more severe than in Paris, thought he should do well to lay in a good load of wood; and seeing a cart passing, he called the Carter, and asked the price. The man, seeing he was a foreigner, thought he would cheat him, and after he had praised the wood, told him he would let him have it for three sovereigns, "which," he said, "is much cheaper than you could buy it anywhere else."

The Frenchman, thinking he had a good bargain, paid him the money, and the rogue of a Carter, delighted at his good luck, went to an alehouse close by, and boasted how he had cheated the Frenchman.

The Landlord of the alehouse was an honest man, and told him he had done very wrong in cheating a stranger. But he replied, "What is that to you? the wood was my own, and I had a right to set my price on it."

The Landlord said no more, but when the Carter asked him how much he had to pay, he replied "Three sovereigns."—"What! three sovereigns for a little bread and cheese and a bottle of beer?"

"Yes, that is the price; the bread and cheese belonged

to me, and I have a right to set my price on it. If you are not satisfied, I will go with you before a Judge."

They went; and the Carter having told his tale, the Judge asked the Landlord what he had to say. He related the whole affair, and judgment was quickly given in his favor. The Carter was obliged to pay him three sovereigns, out of which he returned him the real value of the wood, and then carried the rest to the Frenchman. At the same time he told him not to have a bad opinion of all Germans because a scoundrel had cheated him.

Repent, *be sorry for, regret.*
Disgrace, *a shameful thing.*
Rescue, *save.*
To receive them, *to meet them.*

REVENGE IS SWEET, FORGIVENESS IS SWEETER.

ONCE an Officer in a certain army, in a moment of anger, struck a Soldier. The Soldier turned to him, and said he "would make him repent it."

Shortly after this the enemy carried off a flag; and flags, you know, it is a disgrace to lose. Well, this flag must be got back again; but who is bold enough to go right into the heart of an enemy, in the face of cannon and sword?

A Soldier steps forward, and, with a few picked men, he undertakes to rescue the flag. Away they go: presently this brave handful of men are a target for thousands to shoot at.

On they march; and one—two—three fall dead on the ground.

Still on they go; and they are lost in a cloud of smoke. They are surrounded by the enemy.

For a long half hour you hear sounds of bloody strife. Then the wreck of this little band is seen returning. The

blackened rags of what was once a flag floats above them—a jewel bought with blood.

An Officer rushes to receive them. He holds out his right hand to the leader. But, wherefore is that pause? This leader and this Officer—who are they? The leader is the Soldier who was struck; the Officer, he who struck him.

Once again they have met; and the gaze of armies is upon them.

As one who would receive back a dead brother, the Officer springs forwards, and throws his arms around the Soldier's neck. One look seals the Soldier's forgiveness for ever.

"Sir," said he, "I told you I would make you repent it."*

Penalty, punishment.

Sternly, angrily.

Disguise, dress that conceals who the wearer is.

Discipline, keeping to rules laid down.

OBEDIENCE.

AN Officer in an army lost his life by not learning to obey as well as to command. Frederick the Great, king of Prussia, had ordered, under penalty of death, that every light should be put out in his camp by a certain hour.

In order to know whether his commands were obeyed, the King walked out at night from tent to tent, and found in one of them an Officer with a light, about to seal a letter.

The King sternly demanded to know why he had not obeyed his order. The Officer told him he had been writing to his wife. "Stop!" said the King; "before you seal that letter, take your pen and add these words to it:

* Adapted from De Quincey.

'By the time you receive this letter I shall be hanged for not obeying the order of the King.'

Although this act of the King appears cruel, yet the disobedience of the Officer was a great crime; for the light used by him might have been the means of guiding the enemy to the camp, and of thus causing the destruction of many lives.

In an army, almost everything depends on discipline and obedience. Bonaparte, in the disguise of a common soldier, on going his rounds, to see if his sentinels were on duty, came, on a certain occasion, upon one who refused to let him pass.

In vain the unknown sovereign told him that he was an officer, and must go on. "My orders," said the Sentinel, "are to let no one pass; and you should not go on, if you were Bonaparte himself." Bonaparte, instead of punishing him for his conduct, praised him for his obedience and discipline.

The Duke of Wellington, being out hunting, came up to a working man, who stood by a gate with a pitchfork in his hand, and refused to let him pass. "But, sir," said his grace, "I am the Duke of Wellington."

"That is all one," said the sturdy fellow; "my master told me to let no one pass this gate, and I shall strictly obey his orders." The Duke, instead of looking upon this as an insult, put his hand into his pocket, and gave the man a reward for so faithfully obeying the commands of his master.

Shah, *ruler, emperor.*
 Determine, *make up one's mind, resolve.*
 Reluctance, *unwillingness, hesitation.*
 Expectations, *hopes.*
 Resume, *take up again, return to.*
 Promote, *raise, advance.*
 Degree, *step.*
 Malice, *wicked, venomous spirit.*
 Assail, *attack.*
 Flattery, *praise given with the view of gaining favor.*
 Converted, *turned from one thing to another.*
 Credulous, *believing too readily.*

TRUE RICHES.

ONCE upon a time, a Shah of Persia was making a journey through his kingdom. At the close of a sultry summer's day, he met under the shade of a tree a young Shepherd, who was playing upon his flute. The King, pleased with his appearance, talked with the lad. He was much struck with the shrewdness of his remarks.

The King determined to take the youth with him to his Court, and give him the education his mind deserved.

Abdallah—for so the youth was named—followed the King with reluctance to his palace. There his progress came up to the highest expectations that had been formed of him.

The King loved him as a son; but, as a natural consequence, he was hated and envied by the courtiers. Often did he look back with a sigh on the peaceful life he had once led. He would gladly have laid aside his jewels and purple robe, and resumed the simple shepherd's garb.

The King promoted his favorite from one degree to another, and made him at last keeper of all the treasures of the crown. In vain did envy and malice assail him; he was too high in the favor of the monarch to be reached by such weapons. But at last the good prince died, and was succeeded by his son, a youth of twenty years, whose ear was open to flattery and deception.

The enemies of Abdallah accused him to the young king. "He has enriched himself," they said, "at the expense of the state. The wealth with which your father intrusted him he has converted to his own use. He has stolen some of the most precious of the crown jewels. He has in his house a secret vault, guarded by three locks, where he spends many hours alone, counting over his ill-gotten riches."

The credulous young prince believed the false charges of his courtiers. He surprised Abdallah one morning with an unexpected visit, and addressed him sharply in these words:—"Give me the keys of the secret vault, at the end of the gallery, where you spend so many hours alone, and where none of your friends has ever been admitted."

Abdallah saw at a glance that the malice of his enemies had been at work; he looked smilingly at his accusers, and handed the keys to the Shah. The vault was opened; and they found therein a shepherd's crook and pouch, and a flute. "See here, my lord," said Abdallah, "the marks of my former happy state. I have kept them here, and often visited them, in memory of those peaceful days passed among my own kindred. Take back all that your father gave me; but leave me my shepherd's garb!"

The young prince was much moved. He cast an angry glance upon his courtiers, and, embracing Abdallah, offered to raise him to the highest post in the kingdom. But Abdallah threw down his rich robes, seized his shepherd's crook, and bade the king farewell. Abdallah passed the last of his days amid the peaceful scenes of his boyhood.

Awkward, *clumsy, unhandy.*
Entangled, *disordered, twisted up.*
Exclaimed, *cried out.*
Assistance, *aid, help.*
Disengaged, *loosened, made free.*
Prepared, *made ready.*
Dignity, *majestic manner, sense of importance.*
Disappointment, *the not obtaining what was expected.*
Discourage, *to take away courage, dishearten.*
Objection, *reason against a measure.*
Perseverance, *continuing in anything begun.*
Motto, *an expressive word or sentence.*

PERSEVERANCE.

"WILL you give my kite a lift?" said my little nephew to his sister, after trying in vain to make it fly by dragging it along the ground. Lucy very kindly took it up and threw it into the air, but, her brother neglecting to run off at the same moment, the kite fell down again.

"Ah! now, how awkward you are!" said the little fellow. "It was your fault entirely," answered his sister. "Try again, children," said I.

Lucy once more took up the kite; but now John was in too great a hurry; he ran off so suddenly that he filched it out of her hand; and the kite fell flat as before. "Well, who is to blame now?" asked Lucy. "Try again," said I.

They did, and with more care; but a side-wind coming suddenly, as Lucy let go the kite, it was blown against some shrubs, and the tail got entangled in a moment, leaving the poor kite hanging with its head downward.

"There, there!" exclaimed John, "that comes of your throwing it all to one side." "As if I could make the wind blow straight," said Lucy. In the mean time, I went to the kite's assistance, and having disengaged the long tail, I rolled it up, saying, "Come, children, there are too many trees here; let us find a more open space, and then try again."

We presently found a nice grass-plot, at one side of

which I took my stand ; and all things being prepared, I tossed the kite up just as little John ran off. It rose with all the dignity of a balloon, and promised a lofty flight ; but John, delighted to find it pulling so hard at the string, stopped short to look upward and admire. The string slackened, the kite tottered, and, the wind not being very favorable, down came the kite to the grass. "Oh, John, you should not have stopped," said I. "However, try again."

"I won't try any more," replied he rather sullenly. "It is of no use, you see. The kite won't fly, and I don't want to be plagued with it any longer." "Oh fie, my little man ! would you give up the sport, after all the pains we have taken both to make and to fly the kite ? A few disappointments ought not to discourage us. Come, I have wound up your string, and now, try again."

And he did try, and succeeded, for the kite was carried up on the breeze as lightly as a feather ; and when the string was all out, John stood in great delight, holding fast the stick, and gazing on the kite, which now seemed as a little white speck in the blue sky. "Look, look, aunt, how high it flies ! and it pulls like a team of horses, so that I can hardly hold it. I wish I had a mile of string ; I am sure it would go to the end of it."

After enjoying the sight as long as he pleased, little John proceeded to roll up the string slowly ; and when the kite fell, he took it up with great glee, saying that it was not at all hurt, and that it had behaved very well. "Shall we come out to-morrow, aunt, after lessons, and try again ?"

"I have no objection, my dear, if the weather is fine. And now, as we walk home, tell me what you have learned from your morning's sport." "I have learned to fly my kite properly." "You may thank aunt for it, brother," said Lucy, "for you would have given it up long ago, if she had not persuaded you to try again."

"Yes, my dear children, I wish to teach you the val-

of perseverance, even when nothing more depends upon it than the flying of a kite. Whenever you fail in your attempts to do any good thing, let your motto be—
'Try again.'

Loitered, *spent time idly.*

Spawn, *the eggs of fish.*

Perceived, *noticed, observed.*

Contemplate, *think thoughtfully, or meditate on.*

Fatigue, *great weariness.*

A LESSON FROM THE FISHES AND BIRDS.

A GENTLEMAN remarked to an Indian, whom he saw busily employed fencing his corn-field, that he must be very fond of working, as he had never seen him idling away his time, as was common with the Indians.

"My friend," replied the Indian, "the fishes in the water and the birds in the air have taught me to work. When I was a young man, I loitered about, doing nothing, just like the other Indians. They say that working is only for whites and negroes, and that the Indians were made to hunt the deer, the beaver, the otter, and other animals.

"But one day, while I was hunting, I came to the banks of a river, and sat down on the water's edge to rest awhile. There I was forcibly struck at seeing with what industry the sun-fish heaped small stones together, to make secure places for their spawn; and all this labor they did with their mouth and body, without hands.

"Presently, a little bird, not far from me, raised a song; and while I was looking at the little songster, its mate, with as much grass as it could hold in its bill, passed close by me. It flew into the bushes, where I saw them, both together, busily building their nest, and singing as they went on with their work.

"I entirely forgot my hunting, to contemplate the objects that were before me. I saw the birds in the air, and fishes in the water, working diligently and cheerfully, and all this without hands. I thought it was strange, and I became lost in wonder.

"I looked at myself, and saw my arms, provided with hands, and fingers with joints, that might be opened and shut at my pleasure. I could, when I pleased, take up anything with these hands, hold it fast, let it loose, or carry it along with me.

"When I walked, I observed that I had a strong body, able to bear fatigue, and supported by stout limbs, with which I could climb to the top of the highest mountain, and descend into the lowest valley.

"'And is it possible,' said I to myself, 'that a being so wonderfully formed as I am, was created to live in idleness, while the birds, which have no hands, and nothing but their little bills to help them, work with cheerfulness, and without being told to do so ?

"'Has the Great Creator given me all these limbs for no purpose ? It cannot be. I will go to work.' I did so. I went way from the village to a spot of good land, inclosed it, built a cabin, planted corn, and raised cattle.

"Ever since that time, I have enjoyed a good appetite and sound sleep. While others spend their nights in dancing, and are suffering with hunger, I live in plenty. I keep horses, cows, hogs, and fowls. I am happy. Thus, my friend, the birds and fishes have brought me to reflection, and taught me to work."

If any of my young friends think it a hardship to work, I hope they will go into the fields, and like this untutored Indian, learn lessons from the creatures that God has made. There they will find the little ants busy in rearing their habitation ; the mole in raising his hill ; the birds in building their nests ; and the little busy bee in sucking honey from every flower.

Yet all these little creatures appear contented with

their lot. If God made them to be happy, as we suppose He did, why did He not make them to live an idle, useless life? Evidently, because *activity* is necessary to enjoyment. If you would be *happy*, then, you must be *active*. Idleness will certainly make you discontented, wretched, and miserable.

Conclude (a bargain), *make, come to terms.*

Agent, *one who acts for another.*

Take advantage of, *cheat.*

Legitimate, *lawful.*

THE REWARD OF AVARICE.

Soon after the birth of young Napoleon, his father intended to have a fine palace built for him, almost opposite the bridge of Jéna. It was to be called the Palace of the King of Rome.

The Emperor, therefore, sought to buy all the houses which stood upon the site chosen. On the ground which, by the plan of the building, was to form the extreme right of the front, there was a little house belonging to a poor Cooper.

This house, with the ground where it was built, was worth at the most a thousand francs. The owner asked ten thousand for it. The Emperor being told of this, ordered it to be bought at that price.

When the persons who were to conclude the bargain came, the Cooper said, "On second thoughts, I shall not sell it for less than thirty thousand francs." This was told to Napoleon, who gave orders to pay him that sum.

When they came again to settle the matter, the Cooper raised his demands to forty thousand. The agent was very much troubled; he knew no longer what to do.

He wished not to annoy Napoleon any more with that subject, although he knew that it was impossible to conceal anything from him. He therefore spoke to him again about it.

"That fellow takes advantage," said he. "However, there is no help for it; come, let us pay."

The agent returned to the Cooper, who now asked fifty thousand francs.

Napoleon, in anger, said, "I will not buy the house at all: it shall remain as a monument of my respect for the laws. Arrange your plan anew."

The Bourbons (the legitimate rulers) came back, and pulled down all that was raised of the future palace. The Cooper's hovel fell into ruins; and its owner now lives miserably by his trade, at Passy, near Paris.

Excellent, *very good.*
Knowledge, *learning.*
Bustling, *being active.*
Subject, *the thing treated of.*
Meekly, *mildly, quietly, gently.*
Burdens, *loads.*
Restraint, *hindrance.*
Unrestrained, *without hindrance.*
Drained, *led, guided.*
Trenches, *ditches.*
Fertile, *producing much fruit, rich.*
Produce, *that which is yielded, or produced.*
Steered, *guided, directed.*
Hoists, *raises.*
Applied, *directed, made use of.*

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.

"WHAT an excellent thing is knowledge," said a sharp-looking, bustling little man, to one who was much older than himself. "Knowledge is an excellent thing," repeated he. "My boys know more at six and seven years old, than I did at twelve. They can read all sorts of books, and talk on all sorts of subjects. The world is a great deal wiser than it used to be. Everybody knows something of everything now. Do you not think, sir, that knowledge is an excellent thing?"

"Why, sir," replied the old man, looking gravely,

"that depends entirely upon the use to which it is applied. It may be a blessing or a curse. Knowledge is only an increase of power, and power may be a bad as well as a good thing." "That is what I cannot understand," said the bustling little man. "How can power be a bad thing?"

"I will tell you," meekly replied the old man; and thus he went on: "When the power of a horse is under restraint, the animal is useful in bearing burdens, drawing loads, and carrying his master; but when that power is unrestrained, the horse breaks his bridle, dashes to pieces the carriage that he draws, or throws his rider." "I see! I see!" said the little man.

"When the water of a large pond is properly drained by trenches, it renders the fields around fertile; but when it bursts through its banks, it sweeps everything before it, and destroys the produce of the fields." "I see! I see!" said the little man, "I see!"

"When the ship is steered aright, the sail that she hoists enables her sooner to get into port; but if steered wrong, the more sail she carries the further will she go out of her way." "I see! I see!" said the little man, "I see clearly!"

"Well, then," continued the old man, "if you see these things so clearly, I hope you can see, too, that knowledge, to be a good thing, must be rightly applied. God's grace in the heart will render the knowledge of the head a blessing; but without this, it may prove to us no better than a curse." "I see! I see! I see!" said the little man, "I see!"

Studies, *tasks*.

Efface, *rub out, delete*.

Proceeding, *deed, action*.

Confidence, *trust, belief, faith*.

Master-piece, *chief, principal or best piece*.

THE PAINTER AND HIS MASTER.

A YOUNG artist had painted an excellent picture, the best he had ever drawn ; even his Master found no fault with it. The young artist was so delighted with it, that he gazed at it day and night, and gave up his studies entirely, for he thought he could never do better than this.

One morning, when he was about to indulge himself again with a look at his work, he found that his Master had effaced the whole painting. Weeping with rage, he ran to ask the cause of this cruel proceeding.

The Master answered, "I have done it after careful consideration. The painting was well done, a proof of thy progress ; but, at the same time, it was thy ruin."

"How so ?" asked the young artist.

"My friend," answered the Master, "thou didst no longer love the art in thy painting, but thyself. Believe me, it was not perfect, even if it appeared so to us ; it was but a study. Now, take the pencil, and try again."

Boldly, and full of confidence in himself and in his Master, the young artist set to work again, and painted his master-piece, "The Sacrifice of Iphigenia." For the name of the painter was Timanthes.

BETTER BEND THAN BREAK.

OFTEN, in passing by a field of barley, after a thunder-storm, we see it all look quite black and drooping. We might almost think a flame of fire had swept over it; and it is then that the farmer is wont to say,—“Ah, the lightning has done it all!”

“But why has the lightning done all this?” will be asked, perhaps, by some solitary traveller, who seeks a reason for all that nature does. I will now tell you what the House-sparrow told me about it. The House-sparrow had it from an old Willow-tree that once stood, and indeed is now standing, close by just such a field of barley. It is a large, grave Willow-tree, wrinkled, and rich in years, that seems to burst in the middle; and from the gaping wounds, which time hath made, grow the grass and the bramble, seemingly quite at home there. Its trunk bends over very much, as if it wanted a prop; and its branches hang down to the ground, like long, green hair.

On the fields round about grew beautiful grain,—wheat and oats; yes, the pretty oats, which, when they are quite ripe, look just like a flight of little canary-birds on a bough. The crops of corn had been blessed; and the heavier they were, the more humbly the good wheat and oats bowed their heads.

But there was a field of barley too, and this field stretched itself out on one side till it reached the old Willow-tree. Now, John Barley-corn did not bow his head at all, like the other sorts of corn; but he towered up in the air as proudly and stiffly as he could.

“I am as rich as the greatest of them,” said he, “and much prettier too; my beard, for example, is not matched by any grain that I know, and a pleasant treat it is to look at me waving my yellow head. Do you know of anything more beautiful, more noble; or, in short, anything that can vie with me, you old, dreamy Willow-tree?”

And the mouldering stump stiffly nodded its mossy head, as if to say, "Oh, yes, indeed, *that* I do." But John Barley-corn tossed his haughty head in pure disdain.

In the meantime a very heavy storm came on. All the flowers of the field folded their leaves together, or modestly bowed their tender little heads, whilst the wind whistled over them. John Barley-corn was the only one who stood saucily erect in his pride.

"Bend down, as we do," whispered the other kind flowers.

"What need have I to do that?" said Barley-corn, who was not easily to be taught.

"Bend down, as we do!" cried his brothers; "the angel of the wind is coming; he has wings that reach from the highest cloud to the bottom of the lowest vale, and he will dash you down before you can ask him to have pity on you."

"Once for all, I will not make so little of myself," answered the haughty fellow.

"Shut up your flowers, and draw in your leaves," said the cautious, old Willow-tree. "Look not up at the lightning when the cloud opens."

Now the clouds gathered thick and black, gusts of wind rushed wildly over the fields, the lightning flamed athwart the sky, and the thunders shook the earth. At the moment when the storm had raged its last, the flowers, the oats, and wheat were seen standing in the still, pure air, refreshed with the rain, and happy as the spring; but the barley, the proud haughty barley, lay stretched on the ground by the wind, and burnt black as coal by the lightning."*

Patrimony, *money left by a father, inheritance.*
Principal, *money lent or invested.*
Interest, *profit on the loan or investment.*
Jaded, *worn out, fatigued.*
Salve, *something soothing, balm.*
Victim, *sufferer.*
Submerge, *flood, drown.*
Chicanery, *cheating.*

FAT LOLCUS AND THIN LOLCUS.

A LONG while ago there lived a rich man, and he died, leaving a good patrimony to his sons. Their names were Peter and Thomas. Peter, who was the older, and of a serious turn, chose the life of a monk. Thomas held it to be the height of ambition to be an innkeeper.

The love of money was Tommy's master-passion. He laid hands on his brother's inheritance, under the pretence of taking care of it for him ; but, in truth to pocket the interest, aye, and the principal too, so soon as Peter had forgotten all about it. Thomas was never happy unless he was cheating some one ; he never slept soundly unless he could reckon up a few petty thefts among his "clear profits," as he styled them ; and when the ostler measured out a feed of oats for a traveller's jaded horse, mine host always felt an itching in his palms until he had lessened the contents of the crib by a handful or so. "Drink," said he, as a salve to his conscience, "drink is made for drinking ; then so of course, is a crib for cribbing." Few people, I fancy, will be found to view this peccadillo of Tommy's leniently, and none the less so because a dumb animal happened to be the innocent victim.

At length Tommy's avarice became quite uncontrollable. Like a flooded river, hitherto confined to its proper channel, now it poured over its banks, and threatened to submerge the whole country. All Tommy's pewters, glasses, and bottles had to be made to order, for a reason that he knew best himself. But the thickness of the bottoms could not fail in the long run to attract attention.

It is no wonder that the grumblings behind the bar gradually waxed to bitter complaints.

* * * * *

Unluckily for our amiable friend, the days of adulteration had not yet dawned. Otherwise the loudest complaints could have been shortly and effectually silenced—at least for a time. But the inevitable fate of all such poison-cheats was also reserved for this model of short-measure-cheats, mine host of the "Golden Lion." With all his chicanery he did not thrive; on the contrary, he became poorer and poorer, for the simple reason that his customers left him and went elsewhere. One by one they dropped off, like autumn leaves; the tap-room became desolate, the bar empty; and at last even the chimney gave up smoking. The maids fell asleep, the tables became dusty, the roasting-jack rusty, and the host crusty.

Recital, description.

Convertible, can be changed into.

Pertinaciously, obstinately.

Thus everything was going swimmingly to ruin, when, as if Tommy's cup of bitterness was not yet full enough, in steps his brother Peter.

"Good day, brother Thomas!" says he.

"Day!" grunts Thomas. Mr. Peter looked about him rather uneasily, as if he were going to ask a favor. Mr. Tom smartly turned the conversation to a recital of his own losses and the badness of trade in general. The innocent monk sympathised with his brother.

"What you tell me grieves me to the heart," said he, "and all the more so as my object in calling was to beg of you that little loan you have been so good as to keep for me."

* * * * *

Thomas was astonished, and at first knew not what to say. At length he said:—

"I will confess at once, my dear Peter, that I have made

use of your money for the purposes of business. It has all been invested, of course with a distinct view to your interest. But times are bad, as I was telling you, and no part of the capital is at present convertible into cash. The truth is, I cannot make ends meet, and if you insist on the restoration of your debt, why you will merely turn me and my family into the streets."

"I am really sorry to hear so bad an account of you, and that from your own lips," replied Peter. "Adversity is nothing in comparison with dishonesty. And it is remarkable that wise men of the world, like you, adopt the latter as a line of action; seeing that it invariably leads to the former—by slow steps it may be, but not the less sure.

"But I should like to know," continued Peter, "why, in the face of your dreary circumstances, you are so absurdly imprudent as to board in your establishment precisely the very worst guest that could be put up at an inn."

"There you are quite mistaken!" retorted Thomas, "for we have not had a guest in the house these three weeks."

"Fat Lollus is, notwithstanding, both staying here and eating you up."

"Fat Lollus! Fat Lollus!" repeated the innkeeper in dismay. "Either you, my reverend brother, are mad, or you wish to make a fool of me. My visitors' book, from beginning to end, contains no such name, I warrant you."

"That may be the case," resumed the Monk pertinaciously; "still Fat Lollus is here for all that, and, take my word for it, he is the root of all your misfortunes."

"Well, well, I should just like to see him!" cried the Innkeeper half-credulously; "and if I could but lay hands on him—oh! would I not pay him out! That's all."

"Patience! patience!" said the Monk soothingly. "Take it coolly. You have fondled and nursed him too

long to root him out suddenly. However, if you would like to see him, just step down to the cellar with me, and you shall have your desire."

Surmise, *guess, suppose.*

Vacant, *empty.*

Incantation, *solemn utterance, a charm.*

Dimensions, *measurement, size.*

Rations, *food.*

Overreach, *cheat, defraud.*

Admonition, *warning.*

Contrition, *regret for wickedness, repentance.*

Seclusion, *hiding-place.*

The Innkeeper having somewhat recovered himself, began to surmise that his brother was speaking in riddles, and imagined that he had obtained a clue. "He has taken it into his head that I am given to drink: doubtless it is the wine he means by Fat Lollus." But he seized the key and lighted a lantern, and led the way down into the musty cellar.

Having reached the solid ground, the Monk directed his brother to set the lantern on a vat, taking care that the position should be such as to throw the light into a vacant corner of the cellar. Then stepping a little in front of him, he took out a book, and began muttering an incantation. Presently the ground seemed to tremble, and there crawled forth something huge, and hideous, and slimy, with a pair of eyes glowing like coal.

"Lolly! come nearer," said the Monk quietly. The monster approached, and showed a blotched, bloated face, attached to an uncouth paunch of the most bulky dimensions, which moved drowsily along on four short fat stumps: the skin was sleek like a toad's, but colorless and greasy.

"Observe your worthy guest, brother!" said the Monk to the astonished Innkeeper. "You see, he has not had bad rations, which is some comfort, nor a poor supply, which, as you shall hear, is anything but creditable to you.

This monster is the living witness of your sins; all the substance you vainly thought you had saved by over-reaching your customers only went to fatten the brute before you. *Ill gotten, ill spent.* Your cheating not only lost you what you gained, but the sources of future profits. Here is a lesson for you. If you wish to pursue a sure and lasting plan of dealing, avoid imposing upon your customers or defrauding people of their rights. Ask what is fair and right, that is, the market price, and no more. How can you do that, if you employ false weights and measures? Continue as you are doing,—and your *sin will find you out.* Attend to your own affairs yourself: *no eye like the master's eye.* The more servants you have beyond your actual wants, the fatter Lollus grows."

All this passed in silence. Then, when his brother had uttered two words of contrition, the Monk re-read the incantation, and Lollus gradually crept back into the seclusion of darkness, till not a trace of him remained.

"My money," said Peter, turning to his brother, "I shall leave with you four years longer; but at the expiry of that period, I must have it." And he departed.

Inaugurated, *begun.*

To be in one's element, *as one likes, enjoy one's self.*

It soon became apparent that a new system of management had been inaugurated in the "Golden Lion." The servants went about busily; the mistress of the house seemed again in her element; the customers began to drop in, and steadily to increase. In short, the reputation of this revived hostelry spread far and wide, and Thomas became the envy of his colleagues of the profession throughout the country.

After the lapse of four years, Peter returned according to appointment. His brother received him heartily and hospitably, and presented him at the same time with his money, principal and interest, together with his warmest thanks.

"Principal I will accept, brother," said the Priest; "but not interest. It is a sufficient delight to me that Fat Lollus has vanished to a shadow."

"Is he not entirely gone?" said the Innkeeper somewhat chagrined.

"No! but you will have the pleasure of seeing him in a most emaciated condition."

Down they went to the cellar, and, after the preliminary incantations, Lolly came wearily forth, the shadow of his former self, his eyes sunken, and nothing remaining but skin and bone.

"Ah!" exclaimed the Monk, "that sight does my heart good. Go on like this, brother, and you will be happy."

Again muttering his incantation, Lolly feebly returned to darkness, and since that time Thomas has neither seen nor heard of him.*

Endure, bear, suffer, tolerate.
Irritated, ruffled, annoyed.
Distemper, illness, disease.
Torment, do hurt to, to pain, torture.
Footing, understanding.
Consult, give and hear opinions.

AN ENVIOUS MAN WAXES WITH THE FATNESS OF HIS NEIGHBOUR; OR, AVARICE INCREASES WITH WEALTH.

THREE Men once were travelling the same road, and soon, by that means, became acquainted. As they were journeying on, said the eldest to the rest, "Pray tell me, fellow-travellers, why you leave your settled homes to wander in foreign countries?"

"I have quitted my native soil," answered one, "because I could not endure the sight of some people whom I hated worse than death. This hatred of mine I must

* Abridged from "Christmas Tales;" Shilling Entertaining Library.

confess, was not founded on any injury done me by them, but arose from my own temper, which, I am ashamed to say, is irritated at seeing another happy."

"Few words will give you my answer," replied the second; "for the same distemper torments my breast, and sends me rambling about the world."

"Friends," replied the eldest, "then let us all embrace, for I find we are all three troubled with the same disease." On this common footing they soon became friends, and, being of the same humor, agreed to club together.

One day, as they travelled through a certain valley, they spied a bag of money, which some traveller had dropped in the road. Presently they alighted from their mules, and cried one to another, "Let us share this money, and return home again, where we may be merry and enjoy ourselves." But this they only said by way of brag; for each of them being unwilling that his companions should have any advantage from the bag, they were all three at a stand-still. In truth, each one was so content to be unhappy, rather than see his friend less so, that they actually consulted together whether it were not best to go on without meddling with the bag at all. But as this was a hard point for each to give up, they stopped a whole day and night in the same place to think over it.

Surprised, *come upon suddenly, taken aback.*

Passion, *desire.*

Requisite, *needful, necessary.*

Gain head, *gain strength, mastery.*

Attempt, *try, endeavour.*

Command, *order.*

Inasmuch as, *because.*

Afflicted, *tormented.*

Addicted, *given to.*

At the end of this time, the King of the country, who chanced to be out hunting, with all his court, came suddenly upon them. He rode up to the three Men, and asked them what was the matter with the money-bag that

lay on the ground. Being thus surprised, and dreading some ill consequence if they told not the truth, they all frankly related to the King the real state of the case.

"Sir," said they, "we are all three tortured by the same passion, which is envy. This passion has forced us to quit our native country, and still keeps us company wherever we go. It would, indeed, be a great act of kindness in any one, if it were possible, to cure us of this accursed passion, for we truly find it to be the root of much misery."

"Well," said the King, "I will be your doctor; but before I can do anything, it is requisite that every one of you should inform me truly in what degree this passion prevails over him, to the end that I may make the medicine of the necessary strength for each."

"My envy, alas!" said the first, "has gained such head, that I cannot endure to do good to any man living."

"You are an honest man in comparison with me," cried the second, "for I am so far from doing good to another myself, that I heartily hate to see anybody else doing good to another man." Said the third—

"You both are children in this passion to me; for I not only cannot endure to oblige, nor to see any other person obliged, but I even hate anybody who attempts to do myself a kindness."

The king was so astonished to hear them talk in this manner, that he knew not what to answer. At length, after he had considered some time, "Monsters, and not men, that ye are," said he, "you deserve the severest punishment I can devise." At the same time he commanded the bag to be taken from them, and gave the men their several penalties. He that could not endure to do good was sent into the desert barefoot and without provision. He that could not endure to see good done to another had his head chopped off, because he was unworthy to live, as being one that loved nothing but mischief. Lastly, as for him that could not endure any goo'

to be done to himself, his life was spared, inasmuch as his chief torment afflicted none but himself. He was put into a quarter of the kingdom where the people were of all others famous for being the best natured, and the most addicted to the performance of good deeds and charitable actions. The goodness of these people, and the favors they heaped on him from day to day, caused him such writhing agony, that he died in the utmost anguish.

Solitude, loneliness, retirement, seclusion.

Extraordinary, more than ordinary, unusual.

Discover, find out.

Visage, face, countenance.

Excess, more than enough, abundance, superfluity.

Species, kind, race.

Security, safety.

Entreat, beg, implore.

THE GREEDY AND AMBITIOUS CAT.

THERE was once an old woman in a village, extremely poor, and consequently half starved. She lived in a little cottage as dark and gloomy as a fool's heart, and withal as closely shut up as a miser's fist.

This miserable creature had for the companion of her wretched solitude a Cat as lean as herself; the poor creature never saw bread, nor beheld the face of a stranger. She was forced to be contented with only smelling the mice in their holes, or seeing the prints of their feet in the dust. If by some extraordinary chance this miserable animal happened to catch a mouse, she was like a beggar that discovers a treasure; her visage and her eyes would then become inflamed with joy, and she would feast on the recollections of her prey for a whole week. From the excess of her happiness, she would cry out to herself, "Heavens! is this a dream, or is it a real, solid fact?"

One day, however, ready to die of hunger, she went roving about in search of food. She presently spied

another Cat, like a Lion, stalking along a neighbour's wall. She was so fat that she could hardly move about.

The old woman's Cat was astonished to see a creature of her own species so plump and sleek: so she sung out to her pursy neighbour—"In the name of pity, speak to me, thou happiest of the Cat kind! Why, you look as if you came fresh from a king's feast! Pray, tell me how, or in what region it is, that you get your skin so well stuffed?"

"Where?" replied the fat dame; "why, where should one feed well, if not at a king's table? Every day I go to the palace about dinner-time, and there I lay my paws upon some delicious morsel or another, which serves me till next time; even then I leave enough for a whole army of mice, which, under me, live in peace and security. For, why should I commit murder for a piece of tough and skinny mouse-flesh, when I can live on the daintiest of food at a much easier rate?"

The lean Cat, on this, eagerly inquired the way to this house of plenty, and entreated her plump neighbour to take her some day along with her. "Most willingly," said the fat Puss; "for you see I am naturally charitable, and thou art so lean that I heartily pity thy condition."

Prudently, wisely, judiciously.

Dissuade, advise against.

Prosecute, follow out.

Admonish, advise, counsel.

The ambitious, those who seek

for high things.

Insatiable, not to be satisfied.

Depart, go away.

Snare, trap.

Infested, overrun (with vermin).

Testy, ill-natured.

Solacing, comforting, consoling.

Make shift, succeed.

Feign, make-believe, pretend.

Rarities, scarce things, dainties.

On this promise they touched whiskers and parted. The lean Cat returned to the old woman's cottage, where she told her Dame the story of her fat neighbour. The old woman prudently tried to dissuade her Cat from prosecuting her design. She admonished her withal to have a care of being deceived; "For, believe me," said she, "the desires of the ambitious are insatiable."

The poor starved Cat, however, had formed so bright a picture of the King's table, that the old woman's good advice only went in at one ear and came out at the other. In short, she departed the next day with the fat Puss for the King's palace. But, alas! before she got thither, a snare was laid for her. For, being a house of good cheer, it was so infested with cats that the servants had, just at this time, orders to kill every one that came near it.

The old woman's Cat, however, pushed on by hunger, entered the house, and no sooner did she see a dish of meat unobserved by the cooks, than she made a snatch at it. In short, she did what she had not done for many years, that is, heartily filled her paunch. But just as she was enjoying herself under the dresser, and feeding heartily upon her stolen morsels, one of the testy officers of the kitchen, missing his breakfast, and seeing where the poor Cat was solacing herself with it, threw his knife at it with such an unlucky aim, that he stuck her full in the breast. However, Nature having kindly provided this creature with nine lives instead of one, poor Puss made shift to crawl away, after she had for some time feigned death. But, observing the blood come streaming from her wound —“Well,” said she, “let me but escape this accident, and if ever I quit my old haunts and my own mice—rare as they are—for all the rarities in the King's kitchen, may I lose all my nine lives at once.”*

* Pilpay.

Domain, <i>kingdom, realm.</i>	Impetuous, <i>headlong, rushing.</i>
Extensive sphere, <i>wide circle.</i>	Impetuosity, <i>rashness.</i>
Allotted, <i>given.</i>	Career, <i>course.</i>
Vigor, <i>strength.</i>	Ally, <i>join.</i>
Unenfeebled, <i>without being weakened.</i>	Rigor, <i>stiffness, severity.</i>
Disciplined, <i>kept within bounds.</i>	Sedately, <i>quietly, modestly.</i>
Tempered, <i>tried and strengthened.</i>	Resemble, <i>to be like.</i>

THE RHINE.

WHEN, in the beginning of time, Nature had founded the mountains, and hollowed out the basin of the sea, she walked forth from her cloudy domain to the Gotthards and spake: "It is right that goodness should unite itself to greatness, and that an extensive sphere of activity should be allotted to strength. Thou standest firm, but I will give thee a son, who shall carry afar the power and blessing which thou receivest from the heavens."

She spake, and the Rhine gushed out of the mountain.

Joyful and free, full of spirit and vigor, the young stream bubbled down from the mountain. Playfully he tumbled into the lake; but the lake enchain'd him not. The waves parted asunder: unenfeebled, and in his own proper form, the stream came forth and advanced on his path. For he was a son of Nature, and born of the mountain.

He was now a youth, and he chose his own path. Noble Nature errs not in her choice; she chooses greatness and worth. He cut for himself a way through rocks and mountains, which disciplined and tempered his youthful impetuosity. Thus, too, vine-covered hills bordered the path of the youth.

Splendid was his career. A hundred streams and innumerable brooks mingled their lovely waters with his powerful flood. So the godlike attracts to itself the noble, and the high seeks to ally itself to the highest.

Manly and calm was now his step; more sedately he flowed along, but not more feebly. The rigor of winter

would bind him in everlasting fetters ; but he rent them in pieces, as one rends a thread. He had practised his strength in his youth, and torn rocks asunder.

His surface now resembled a polished mirror. Not the joyful vine-branch, the fruit of the mountain, but richly blessing corn-fields encompassed him ; his back carried ships and rafts. Thus calm strength produces the useful along with the beautiful.

He now approached the limit of his career. Nature divided him into manifold streams, which are called by other names. Men give him the name RHINE alone, when they speak of his greatness and his blessing.

Thus calm strength retains its dignity and honor.*

Pomp, *gaudy* or *gay show*.

Magnificence, *grandeur*.

Solitude, *loneliness*.

Contemplation, *the act of looking at, or surveying thoughtfully*.

Impose upon, *cheat, deceive*.

Benefactor, *doer of good deeds*.

High estate, *high position*, or *condition*.

Abject, *low, degraded*.

Hermitage, *the residence of a hermit*.

ALL IS NOT GOLD THAT GLITTERS.

DUSHMANTA was the richest of all the kings of India, and of his pomp and magnificence there was no end. But he was proud and overbearing in his manners, shutting his heart against the humble and lowly of his people.

This conduct exceedingly grieved an aged Brahmin who had been Dushmanta's teacher in the days of his youth. He quitted his solitude, and, strewing dust upon his head, went to the palace of the king, and placed himself at the entrance.

The king observed the Brahmin, and ordered him to approach his royal presence. "Why," said he to him,

* Krummacher.

"why dost thou appear in this place clothed with mourning, and with thy grey hair covered with dust?"

The Brahmin answered, "When I left thee, thou wast the richest of all the lords of India that ever sat upon the throne which thou now occupiest. For Brahma had blessed thee exceedingly; and when I left the residence of my king and lord, joy alone filled my heart at the contemplation of his splendor and happiness. But what was my grief, when I heard, in my solitude, that all this abundance had been squandered, and that my king was plunged in the deepest poverty!"

Dushmanta listened with surprise to the words of the Brahmin, and, smiling, he replied, "What fool has imposed upon thee with such a falsehood? Look about you. This is my palace; these are my pleasure gardens which surround it; and there is the long train of servants who await my nod!"

Then the Brahmin answered, "All this is only hollow deception. In vain you attempt to blind the eyes by such false glitter. The lord of India is fallen from his high estate into the most abject poverty. Thou hast nothing, O King!—so say the groans and tears of thy people. Yet thou boastest of riches in the face of Brahma, who knoweth all things."

Thus spoke the hermit, and returned to his cottage. But his words were not lost on Dushmanta. He took them to heart, and became once more the benefactor of his people.

Sometime afterwards he visited in person the hermitage of the Brahmin, and calling him out, thus addressed him—"I may now presume to show myself under the shelter of thy hut. But one thing is yet wanting."

"What?" said the Brahmin; "what can be wanting to complete the happiness of a prince who is the blessing of the land he governs and the father of his people?"

"The expression of the gratitude of my heart to that Wisdom which led me back to the path of duty from which

I had wandered, and which taught me that the joy that lightens up the countenance of a happy people is the only true riches which a prince can have."

The aged Brahmin, embracing the prince, and shedding tears of joy, bestowed upon him his blessing.

Extremity, *danger*.
Calamity, *misfortune, disaster*.
Conduce, *lead*.
Preservation, *safety*.

NO LOT SO WRETCHED BUT SOME COMFORT IS TO BE HAD.

A TRAVELLER once journeyed along a narrow path, on one side of which rose a high ridge of mountains, and on the other side a wide and deep river flowed. Suddenly he saw a fierce Tiger rush down upon him from the mountain. In order to escape the danger, he was just about to throw himself into the stream, and to swim for his life; but at that moment a Crocodile darted up his head from the river, and opened his jaws to devour him.

"O miserable me!" exclaimed the poor Traveller, "whichever way I look, certain death stares me in the face." Full of despair and anguish, he sank powerless to the earth. The Tiger, now almost upon him, made a sudden spring, and leaped—where do you think?—into the mouth of the Crocodile!

In the greatest extremity despair not. That which at first sight appeared a fatal calamity, may unexpectedly conduce to thy preservation.

TO PROMISE, AND GIVE NOTHING, IS COMFORT FOR A FOOL.

IN a certain year, when there had been but little rain, and everything was parched and dried up, two Sparrows were almost starved to death.

"My dear brother," said the weakest of the two to the

other, "gather up all your strength, fly about, and try to find some food. I would gladly go with you, but I cannot move. If you get some food, bring me a little; but make haste, or I shall die with hunger."

His companion promised to do as he wished, and flew away. He was so happy as to find a cherry-tree full of ripe fruit. "Oh!" cried he, "my friend and myself are saved!" He perched on the tree, began to peck at the cherries, which he found very nice, and soon satisfied his hunger.

An hour passed away; the sun was setting. The Sparrow began to think that it was time to carry a few cherries to his fainting friend. "But no," said he, "I am yet too faint myself. I will just eat this cherry—and this—and this." And thus he went on, hopping from bough to bough, till night came, and he fell asleep. He did not awake till morning, and then hurried back to his brother; but he found him lying on his back, and dead.

Promises are sacred; and particularly so when given to the needy. The noble soul forgets not in his own good fortune the misfortunes of others.

THE MONKEY AND THE DOLPHIN.

ONCE upon a time, a ship was wrecked. Among the passengers there had been a Monkey, who, on all occasions, wished to pass for a man. The Monkey floundered about among the waves, and was on the point of sinking, when a Dolphin came to his rescue.

"Come on my back," said the obliging Dolphin; "I will take you safe to land."

The Monkey thanked him, and gladly did as he was told.

Well, on the way, the two entered into conversation with each other; and, among other things, the Dolphin asked the Monkey where he belonged to.

"To London," replied he, proudly.

"Oh, indeed! A fine city, as I have heard."

"That it is! the biggest and richest in the whole world."

"Of course, then, you are acquainted with St. Paul's?" inquired the Dolphin.

"Know him! to be sure I do! Why, he is a bosom friend of mine!"

"In that case," retorted the Dolphin, drily, "you may go to the bottom. I have heard enough to be fully aware that St. Paul's is a *building*, and not a man at all. Down, then, and drown, as all liars should do!"

Form a resolution, *resolve, determine.*
Works (misery), *brings about, occasions.*
Protect, *guard, keep harm from.*
Tractable, *easily managed.*
Avarice, *greed.*

THE HYPOCRITICAL OLD WOLF.

IN SIX FABLES.

I.

A WICKED Wolf had arrived at a very great age, and formed the resolution to live on a peaceful footing with Shepherds. So he rose up and came to the first Shepherd whose herd was nearest to his den.

"Shepherd," said he, "you call me a blood-thirsty robber, but I am not so in reality. It is true that I am forced to seize some of your sheep when I am hungry, for hunger works misery. Only protect me from hunger, and make me satisfied, and you shall have no cause to be discontented with me. For I am, in fact, the tamest and most tractable animal when I am satisfied."

"When you are satisfied! that is very likely," returned the Shepherd. "But when are you satisfied? you and avarice are so never. Go your way!"

Repulsed, *driven away, rejected.*
 Preface, *statement made beforehand.*
 Engage, *promise.*
 Tribute, *tax.*
 Secure oneself, *guard, defend oneself.*

II.

The repulsed Wolf came to a second Shepherd.

"You know, Shepherd," was his preface, "that I could slay many sheep through the year: will you give me altogether six sheep every year, and I will engage to be satisfied. You may then sleep securely, and dismiss your dogs without hesitation."

"Six sheep!" said the Shepherd; "that is almost a whole herd!"

"Well, if you think so, I will make myself content with five," said the Wolf.

"You must be jesting; five sheep! I scarcely ever offer in sacrifice more than five sheep through the whole year."

"Four, then, or three?" asked the Wolf again; and the Shepherd contemptuously shook his head.

"Three? Two?"

"Not one," the Shepherd answered at length; "for, I should be very foolish if I paid tribute to an enemy from whom I can secure myself by watchfulness."

Pass for, *have a name or reputation as.*
 Unprincipled, *dishonest, immoral, wicked.*
 Injustice, *unfairness.*
 Disinterested, *free from selfishness, kind.*
 Signify, *mean.*
 Betray, *uncover, disclose* (what is intended to be kept secret).

III.

"Good things always go by threes," thought the Wolf, and came to a third Shepherd.

"It weighs heavily upon me," said he, "that I pass among you Shepherds for the most horrible, unprincipled animal that exists. I will now prove to you, Montan,

what injustice is done me. Give me every year one sheep; then in every forest which is made unsafe by no one but me, your flocks shall dare to graze free and unharmed. Only one sheep! What a trifle! Could I bargain more honorably, more disinterestedly? You laugh, Shepherd—but why?"

"Oh, nothing! but how old are you, good friend?" said the Shepherd.

"What does my age signify? I am always old enough to slay your choicest lambs."

"Do not be angry, old Isegrim! but I am grieved to say that you come some years too late: your lost teeth betray you. You play the disinterested, merely that you may be allowed to come nearer without danger."

*Avail, take advantage of.
Reconciled, become friendly again.
Envious, wishful.
Consider, think, set down.
Moralise, talk solemnly.*

IV.

The Wolf was very angry, but he calmed himself, and went to a fourth Shepherd. He had just lost his faithful dog, and the Wolf availed himself of the circumstance.

"Shepherd," said he, "I have quarrelled with my brethren of the forest so deeply that I shall never again be reconciled to them. You know how much you have to fear from them! But if you will let me take the place of your lost dog, I promise you that my wicked brethren shall do no greater harm to your sheep than to long for them with envious eyes."

"And will you indeed," returned the Shepherd, "protect them against your brethren of the wood?"

"What else could I mean? Certainly."

"Well, that is not bad! but if I should receive you into my flocks, tell me, who would protect my poor sheep

against you ? To take a thief into the house in order to be secure from thieves without, is what we men consider as _____"

"I have heard enough !" said the Wolf ; " you are beginning to moralise. Farewell."

Gnash, grind the teeth.
Singular, odd, queer, exceptional.
Count upon, reckon, depend, rely.

v.

"Ah ! if I were not quite so old !" gnashed the Wolf.
" But I must submit to my fate."

So he came to the fifth Shepherd.

" Do you know me, Shepherd ? " asked the Wolf.

" I know your fellows well enough," returned the Shepherd.

" My fellows ? that I doubt much. I am such a singular wolf, that I am well worthy the friendship of you and every shepherd."

" And in what way are you so singular ? "

" I could not kill and eat a living sheep if it should cost me life ; I never go near any but dead sheep. Is that not praiseworthy ? If you will only suffer me, now and then, to be by your stock, and to dare to ask you —"

" Spare your words !" said the Shepherd ; " you must eat no sheep at all, not even dead ones, if I am not to be your enemy. An animal that would eat dead sheep, when he was hungry might easily mistake sick ones for dead, and healthy for sick. Do not count, therefore, upon my friendship, but go ! "

The Ass wearing the Lion's skin.

In lion's skin an ass once went about,
And threw the brute creation into rout;
They thought him a true lion, not an ass :
He therefore tried, when Recynard chanced to pass,
If, like the rest, a fox would yield to flight.
But when he met that wily creature's sight
(Now she, by chance, that moment heard him bray),
Quoth she to him, " Be sure of what I say,
" Had I not just now mark'd you when you bray'd,
" I, like my fellow-brutes, had been afraid."**

Dervise, <i>wise man.</i>	Sorcerer, <i>one who is believed to have higher powers than ordinary mortals have.</i>
Cadi, <i>a magistrate.</i>	Ground, <i>reason, cause</i>
Particularly, <i>carefully, minutely.</i>	Ample, <i>abundant.</i>
Probability, <i>likelihood.</i>	Scope, <i>room.</i>
Evidence, <i>facts in proof, testimony by an eye-witness.</i>	Route (pron. <i>root</i>), <i>line of travel.</i>
Adduce, <i>bring forward.</i>	Conclude, <i>come to a conclusion or opinion.</i>
Convict, <i>prove guilty.</i>	
Court, <i>judge, or bench of judges.</i>	

THE DERVISE.

A DERVISE was journeying alone in the desert, when two Merchants suddenly met him. "You have lost a Camel," said he to the Merchants.

"Indeed we have," they replied.

"Was he not blind in his right eye, and lame in his left leg?" said the Dervise.

"He was," replied the merchants.

"Had he lost a front tooth?" said the Dervise.

"He had," rejoined the merchants.

"And was he not loaded with honey on one side, and wheat on the other?"

"Most certainly he was," they replied; "and as you have seen him so lately, and marked him so particularly, you can, in all probability, conduct us to him."

"My friends," said the Dervise, "I have never seen your Camel, nor ever heard of him but from yourselves."

"A pretty story, truly!" said the merchants; "but where are the jewels which formed part of his cargo?"

"I have neither seen your Camel nor your jewels," repeated the Dervise.

On this, they seized his person, and forthwith hurried him before the Cadi, where, on the strictest search, nothing could be found upon him, nor could any evidence whatever be adduced to convict him, either of falsehood or of theft.

They were then about to proceed against him as a sorcerer, when the Dervise, with great calmness, thus

addressed the Court: "I have been much amused with your surprise, and own that there has been some ground for your suspicions. But I have lived long, and alone; and I can find ample scope for observation, even in a desert. I knew that I had crossed the track of a camel that had strayed from its owner, because I saw no mark of any human footsteps on the same route. I knew that the animal was blind of one eye, because it had cropped the herbage only on one side of the path: and I perceived that it was lame of one leg from the faint impression that particular foot had made upon the sand. I concluded that the animal had lost one tooth, because wherever it had grazed, a small tuft of grass was left uninjured in the centre of its bite. As to that which formed the burden of the beast, the busy ants informed me that it was corn on the one side; and the clustering flies that it was honey on the other."

Rolling in wealth, excessively rich.

Produced, made.

Century, hundred years.

Mankind, the human race.

Acquire, gain possession of.

THE COBBLER AND THE BANKER.

THERE once lived a contented Cobbler, who passed his time in working and singing from morning till night. He had a neighbour, a Banker, who, on the contrary, was rolling in wealth. One day happening to meet with the Cobbler, he said to him: "How much a year do you earn, my good friend?"

"How much a year, Sir?" said the Cobbler, laughing; "I never reckon in that way, living as I do from hand to mouth. But somehow or other, I manage to reach the end of the year; each day brings its meal."

"Well then! how much a day do you earn, my friend?"

"Sometimes more, sometimes less; but somehow or another I contrive to live."

The Banker said : " In future I shall place you above want. Take these hundred crowns, preserve them carefully, and make use of them in time of need."

The Cobbler fancied he beheld all the wealth which the earth had produced in the past century for the use of mankind. Returning home, he buried his money, and with it his happiness. There was no more singing ; he lost his mirth the moment he acquired his riches.

Sleep quitted his dwelling ; and cares, suspicions, and false alarms took its place. All day his eye wandered to the spot where his treasure lay hid ; and at night, if some stray cat made a noise, he suspected some one was robbing him. At length the poor man ran to the house of his rich neighbor : " Give me back," cried he, " sleep and my voice, and keep your hundred crowns."

THE TOWN AND THE COUNTRY MOUSE.

A LITTLE Mouse lived contentedly in her hole in the corner of a poor cottage. She had a sister, who had found her way into a large town, and had settled herself in the house of a very great and rich man.

One day, the town Mouse came to see her sister, who received her very kindly, and did all she could to make her comfortable in her homely dwelling. She set before her the best crumbs of cheese and bread that she could find, and the clearest water from the spring close by.

The next morning, when the town Mouse was ready to go to her own home again, she kindly pressed her country sister to go back with her ; and took some pains to make her understand the grand and plentiful way of life led by mice in the town.

The country Mouse was willing to go, and they set out together. Late in the evening they came to the grand house, and the country Mouse could do nothing but admire all she saw. In one of the rooms they found

the remains of a splendid feast. There were jellies and sweetmeats, creams and tarts—everything, in short, that was nice ; and instead of spring water, there was wine of the best kind for them to drink. But before they had half finished their feast, they both darted behind the curtain at the sound of a little dog, who was barking and scratching at the door.

When all was silent, they ventured out again, though trembling. But now the mewing of a cat almost frightened them to death.

They had scarcely recovered this shock, when the door burst open, and a whole train of servants came in. The poor little Mice hid behind the curtain once more, and when all was silent, and they could peep forth again, they found the whole of the feast, crumbs and all, had been swept away.

"Oh, my dear sister," said the country Mouse, as soon as she was able to speak, "let me go back at once to my poor cottage, and my plain food ! How could I enjoy all your fine things while living in such constant fear ? and what is the use of plenty, with an aching heart ? "

Pieces for Recitation.*

THE COUNTRY MOUSE AND THE TOWN MOUSE.

Two Mice, of whom one spent a-field his day,
The other's hole in rich town storehouse lay,
To have their food in common both agreed:
And so the Town-bred Mouse came first, to feed
Where now the field was fresh with verdant fruits;
And nibbling there the moist and bitter roots
Of corn, from dingy clods by no means free,
"The life of wretched ant is yours," said he,
"Eating scant barley in the depths of earth.
For me, I find much plenty, and no dearth.
I dwell in Plenty's horn, compared with you;
Come and feast freely, as you'd wish to do,
Leaving the moles to burrow in the soil."
He won the simple Mouse from rustic toil,
Men's homes to enter, 'neath their walls to bore;
And show'd him where there is of pulse a store,
A cask of figs,—and where the meal-bags are;
Where the date-chest, and where the honey-jar.
When, spurr'd and much delighted by all these,
He from a basket dragg'd a piece of cheese—
Lo! some one oped the door, away he leapt,
And trembling to his hole's aperture crept,
Crowding his host, and venting hideous squeaks.
But in a-while from his retreat he sneaks,
Intent a Camircean fig to taste;
But after something, upon them in haste

* These versified Fables are proposed for recitation: but, of course, they are in the first instance to be treated as reading-lessons, and, as such, to be carefully expounded by the teacher.

Came some one else. They hid. The Country Mouse
 Said, "Feast and fare you well in Plenty's house,
 Of these abundant revels take your fill;
 You'll find them mainly fraught with risk and ill.
 Meanwhile, desert my smooth clod will not I,
 Where I munch barley, and all fears defy!"

Davies.

THE TORTOISE AND THE SWALLOW.

A TORTOISE in a garden's bound,*
 An ancient inmate† of the place,
 Had left his winter quarters under-ground,
 And with a sober pace
 Was crawling o'er a sunny bed,
 And thrusting from his shell his pretty toad-like head.
 Just come from sea, a Swallow,
 As to and fro he nimbly flew,
 Beat our old racer hollow;
 At length he stopt direct in view,
 And said, "Acquaintance, brisk and gay,
 How have you fared‡ this many a day?"
 "Thank you!" replied the close housekeeper,
 "Since you and I last autumn parted,
 I've been a precious sleeper,
 And never stirr'd nor started;
 But in my hole I lay as snug
 As a cat upon a rug:
 Nor did I put my head abroad
 Till all the snow and ice was thaw'd."
 "But I," rejoined the bird,
 "Who love cold weather just as well as you,
 Soon as the warning blasts I heard
 Away I flew,
 And mounting in the wind,
 Left gloomy winter far behind.

* *Bound*, i.e., boundary. † *Ancient inmate*, long inhabitant.

* *Fared*, lived, got on.

Directed by the mid-day sun,
O'er sea and land my daring course I steer'd ;
Nor was my distant journey done
Till Afric's verdant* coast appear'd.

There, all the season long,
I chased gay butterflies and gnats,
And gave my negro friends a morning song.
I housed at night among the bats.

Then, at the call of spring,
I northward turn'd my wing,
And here again her joyous message bring."

"Oh ! what a deal of needless ranging,"
Return'd the reptile grave ;
"For ever hurrying, bustling, changing,
As if it were your life to save !

Why need you visit foreign nations ?
Rather like me, and some of your relations,
Take out a pleasant half year's nap,
Secure from trouble and mishap."

"A pleasant nap, indeed !" replied the Swallow ;
"When I can neither see nor fly,
The bright example I may follow ;
Till then, in truth, not I !
I measure time by its employment,
And only value life for life's enjoyment.
As good be buried all at once,
As doze out half one's days like you, you stupid dunce !"

* *Verdant*, green.

THE FISHERMAN AND THE LITTLE FISH.

A FISHERMAN, who all the sea-shore drain'd,
 While he with slender rod sweet life maintain'd,
 Once caught with horsehair-line a tiny Fish,
 Ill suited for the frying-pan or dish.
 The gasping Fish its captor thus besought :
 " What am I worth ? For what shall I be bought ?
 I'm not half grown ! whom, on yon rocky shore,
 My mother in the sea-weed lately bore.
 Now let me go ; oh, kill me not in vain,
 And you shall catch me when you come again !
 On sea-weed food ere then grown large and fine,
 And meet to grace a board where rich men dine."
 As thus she prayed, she raised a piteous moan,
 And panted much ; but the old man was stone.
 Vain was her hope, with winning words to please ;
 He said, while piercing her with ruthless reed,
 " Who holds not fast a small but certain prize,
 Is but a fool, to seek uncertainties."

Davies.

THE SCHOOLBOY AND THE ORCHARD.

A YOUNGSTER at school, more sedate than the rest,
 Had once his integrity* put to the test :
 His comrades had plotted an orchard to rob,
 And ask'd him to go and assist in the job.

He was shock'd and annoy'd, and answer'd—" Oh no !
 What, rob our poor neighbor ! I pray you don't go.
 Besides, the man's poor, his orchard's his bread ;
 Then think of his children, for they must be fed."

" You speak very fine, and you look very grave,
 But apples we want, and apples we'll have ;
 If you will go with us, we'll give you a share,
 If not, you shall have neither apple nor pear."

* *Integrity*, honesty.

They spoke, and Tom ponder'd—"I see they will go;
Poor man! what a pity to injure him so!

Poor man! I would save him his fruit if I could,
But staying behind will do him no good.

"If the matter depended alone upon me,
His apples might hang till they dropp'd from the tree;
But since they *will* take them, I think I'll go too;
He will lose none by me, though I get a few."

His scruples thus silenced, Tom felt more at ease,
And went with his comrades the apples to seize;
He blamed and protested, but join'd in the plan;
He shared in the plunder, but pitied the man.

Couper.

THE FOX AND THE CAT.

THE Fox and the Cat, as they travell'd one day,
With moral discourses cut shorter the way.

"'Tis great," says the Fox, "to make justice our guide!"
"How godlike is mercy!" Grimalkin replied.

While thus they proceeded, a Wolf from the wood,
Impatient of hunger, and thirsting for blood,
Rush'd forth—as he saw the dull shepherd asleep—
And seiz'd for his supper an innocent sheep.

"In vain, wretched victim, for mercy you bleat,
When mutton's at hand," says the Wolf, "I must eat."

Grimalkin's astonish'd!—the Fox stood aghast,
To see the fell * beast at his bloody repast.
"What a wretch!" says the Cat; "'tis the vilest of brutes;
Does he feed upon flesh when there's herbage and roots?"
Cries the Fox, "While our oaks give us acorns so good,
What a tyrant is this to spill innocent blood!"

Well, onward they march'd, and they moralised† still,
Till they came where some poultry pick'd chaff by a mill.

* *Fell*, terrible.

† *Moralise*, to talk about the goodness and badness of actions.

Sly Reynard survey'd them with gluttonous eyes,
And made, spite of morals, a pullet his prize.
A mouse, too, that chanced from her covert* to stray,
The greedy Grimalkin secured as her prey.

A Spider that sat in her web on the wall,
Perceived the poor victims, and pitied their fall;
She cried, "Of such murders, how guiltless am I!"
So ran to regale† on a new-taken fly.

Cunningham.

THE FOX AT THE POINT OF DEATH.

A Fox, in life's extreme decay,
Weak, sick, and faint, expiring lay;
All appetite had left his maw,
And age disarm'd‡ his mumbling jaw.
His numerous race around him stand
To learn their dying sire's command :
He rais'd his head with whining moan,
And thus was heard the feeble tone :

"Ah, sons, from evil ways depart;
My crimes lie heavy on my heart.
See, see, the murder'd geese appear !
Why are those bleeding turkeys there ?
Why all around this cackling train,
Who haunt my ears for chickens slain ?"

The hungry foxes round them stared,
And for the promised feast prepared.

"Where, sir, is all this dainty cheer ?
Nor turkey, goose, nor hen is here.
These are the phantoms§ of your brain ;
And your sons lick their lips in vain."

"Oh, gluttons ! " said the drooping sire,
"Restrain inordinate|| desire,
Your liquorish taste you shall deplore,
When peace of conscience is no more.

* *Covert*, hole. † *Regale*, feast. ‡ *Disarm*, weaken, enfeeble.
§ *Phantom*, vision. || *Inordinate*, unusual, excessive.

Does not the hound betray our pace,
 And gins and guns destroy our race?
 Thieves dread the searching eye of power,
 And never feel the quiet hour.
 Old age (which few of us shall know)
 Now puts a period to my woe.
 Would you true happiness attain,
 Let honesty your passions rein;*
 So live in credit and esteem,
 And the good name you've lost, redeem."†
 "The counsel's‡ good," a son replies,
 "Could we perform what you advise.
 Think what our ancestors§ have done;
 A line of thieves from son to son.
 To us descends the long disgrace,
 And infamy|| has marked our race.
 Though we like harmless sheep should feed,
 Honest in thought, in word, in deed,
 Whatever hen-roost is decreas'd,
 We shall be thought to share the feast.
 The change shall never be believed,
 A lost good name is ne'er retrieved."
 "Nay then," replies the feeble Fox,
 "(But hark! I hear a hen that clucks,)
 Go; but be moderate in your food:
 A chicken, too, might do me good."

Gay.

THE TURKEY AND THE ANT.

IN other men we faults can spy,
 And blame the mote that dims their eye,
 Each little speck and blemish find,
 To our own stronger errors blind.
 A Turkey, tired of common food,
 Forsook the barn, and sought the wood;

* Rein, restrain, keep in check.
 ‡ Counsel, advice.

† Redeem, gain again.
 § Ancestors, forefathers.

|| Infamy, evil repute.

Behind her ran an infant train,
 Collecting here and there a grain.
 "Draw near, my birds!" the mother cries,
 "This hill delicious fare supplies;
 Behold the busy negro race,—
 See millions blacken all the place!
 Fear not; like me, with freedom eat;
 An Ant is most delightful meat.
 How bless'd, how envied were our life,
 Could we but 'scape the poult er's knife;
 But man, foul man, on Turkeys preys,
 And Christmas shortens all our days!
 Sometimes with oysters we combine,
 Sometimes assist the savory chine;
 From the low peasant to the lord,
 The Turkey smokes on every board;
 Sure, men for gluttony are cursed,
 Of the seven deadly sins the worst."

An Ant, who climb'd beyond her reach,
 Thus answer'd from the neighboring beech:
 "Ere you remark another's sin,
 Bid thy own conscience look within;
 Control thy more voracious bill,
 Nor for a breakfast nations kill."

Gay.

THE HARE AND MANY FRIENDS.

FRIENDSHIP, like love, is but a name,
 Unless to one you stint* the flame.
 The child whom many fathers share,
 Hath seldom known a father's care.
 'Tis thus in friendships; who depend
 On many, rarely find a friend.

A Hare who, in a civil way,
 Complied with everything, like Gay,†

* *Stint*, limit, restrict.

† *i.e.* the author.

Was known to all the bestial train
Who hunt the wood, or graze the plain :
Her care was never to offend,
And every creature was her friend.
As forth she went at early dawn,
To taste the dew-besprinkled lawn,
Behind she hears the hunter's cries,
And from the deep-mouth'd thunder flies.
She starts, she stops, she pants for breath ;
She hears the near approach of death :
She doubles to mislead the hound,
And measures back her mazy ground ;
Till, fainting, in the public way,
Half dead with fear she gasping lay.
What transport* in her bosom grew,
When first the Horse appeared in view !

"Let me," says she, "your back ascend,
And owe my safety to a friend.
You know my feet betray my flight ;
To friendship every burden's light."

The Horse replied, "Poor honest Puss,
It grieves my heart to see you thus :
Be comforted, relief is near,
For all your friends are in the rear."
She next the stately Bull implored ;
And thus replied the mighty lord :
"Since every beast alive can tell
That I sincerely wish you well,
I may, without offence, pretend
To take the freedom of a friend.
Love calls me hence ; a favorite cow
Expects me near yon barley-mow ;
And, where a lady's in the case,
You know all other things give place.
To leave you thus would seem unkind :
But see, the Goat is just behind."

The Goat remarked her pulse was high,
Her languid head, her heavy eye :

* *Transport*, pleasurable excitement.

"My back," says she, "may do you harm;
The Sheep's at hand, and wool is warm."

The Sheep was feeble, and complain'd,
" His sides a load of wool sustain'd; " *
Said he was slow, confess'd his fears,
" For hounds eat sheep as well as hares. "

She now the trotting Calf address'd,
To save from death a friend distress'd :
" Shall I," says he, " of tender age,
In this important case engage ?
Older and abler passed you by ;
How strong are those ! how weak am I !
Should I presume to bear you hence,
Those friends of mine may take offence.
Excuse me, then ; you know my heart ;
But dearest friends, alas ! must part.
How we shall all lament ! adieu !
For see, the hounds are just in view."

Guy.

THE COUNTRYMEN AND THE ASS.

A COUNTRY fellow and his son, they tell
In ancient fables, had an ass to sell:
For this intent, they turned it out to play.
It fed so well, that by the destined day
They brought the creature into sleek repair,
And drove it gently to a neighboring fair.

As they were jogging on, a rural class
Was heard to say, "Look! look there, at that ass!
And those two blockheads trudging on each side,
They have not, either of 'em, sense to ride;
Asses all three!" And thus the country folks
On man and boy began to cut their jokes.

* *Sustain*, bear, carry. † *Ancient*, long ago, opp. modern. *Rural*, belonging to the country.

Th' old fellow minded nothing that they said,
 But every word stuck in the young one's head ;
 And thus began their comment* thereupon :
 " Ne'er heed 'em, lad." " Nay, father, do get on."
 " Not I, indeed." " Why, then let me, I pray."
 " Well, do ; and see what prating tongues will say."

The boy was mounted ; and they had not got
 Much farther on, before another knot,
 Just as the ass was pacing by, pad, pad,
 Cried, " O ! that lazy booby of a lad !
 How unconcernedly the gaping brute
 Lets the poor aged fellow walk a-foot."

Down came the son on hearing this account,
 And begged, and prayed, and made his father mount !
 Till a third party, on a farther stretch,
 " See ! see !" exclaimed, " that old hard-hearted wretch !
 How like a justice† there he sits, or squire,
 While the poor lad keeps wading through the mire."

" Stop !" cried the lad, still vex'd in deeper mind,
 " Stop, father, stop ; let me get on behind."
 This done, they thought they certainly should please,
 Escape reproaches, and be both at ease ;
 For having tried each practicable way,
 What could be left for jokers now to say ?

Still disappointed by succeeding tone,
 " Hark ye, you fellows ! Is that ass your own ?
 Get off ! for shame ! or one of you at least !
 You both deserve to carry the poor beast !
 Ready to drop down dead upon the road,
 With such a huge unconscionable‡ load."

On this they both dismounted ; and, some say,
 Contrived to carry, like a truss of hay,
 The ass between them ; prints, they add, are seen
 With man and lad, and slinging ass between ;

* Comment, observations.

† Justice, judge.

‡ Unconscionable, unreasonable.

Others omit that fancy in the print,
As overstraining an ingenious hint.

The copy that we follow, says: The man
Rubbed down the ass, and took to his first plan ;
Walked to the fair and sold him, got his price,
And gave his son this pertinent* advice :
"Let talkers talk ; stick thou to what is best ;
To think of pleasing all—is all a jest."

THE LION AND THE CUB.

A LION Cub, of sordid† mind,
Avoided all the lion kind ;
Fond of applause,‡ he sought the feasts
Of vulgar and ignoble§ beasts ;
With asses all his time he spent,
Their club's perpetual president.||
He caught their manners, looks, and airs ;
An ass in everything but ears !
If e'er his highness meant a joke,
They grinn'd applause before he spoke ;
But at each word what shouts of praise !
Goodness ! how natural he brays !
Elate with flattery and conceit,
He seeks his royal sire's retreat ;
Forward, and fond to shew his parts,
His highness brays ; the Lion starts.
"Puppy ! that curs'd vociferation¶
Betrays thy life and conversation :
Coxcombs, an ever-noisy race,
Are trumpets of their own disgrace."

* *Pertinent*, appropriate, bearing on the point in question.

† *Sordid*, mean, base.

‡ *Ignoble*, basely born.

§ *Applause*, loud praise.

|| *President*, chairman.

¶ *Vociferation*, utterance.

"Why so severe?" the Cub replies;
 "Our senate* always held me wise!"
 "How weak is pride," returns the Sire:
 "All fools are vain when fools admire!
 But know, what stupid asses prize,
 Lions and noble beasts despise."

Gay.

THE PRIEST AND THE MULBERRY TREE.

Did you hear of the Curate who mounted his mare,
 And merrily trotted along to the fair?
 Of creature more tractable† none ever heard,
 In the height of her speed she would stop at a word;
 But again with a word, when the curate said, Hey!
 She put forth her mettle‡ and gallop'd away.

As near to the gates of the city he rode,
 While the sun of September all brilliantly glow'd,
 The good Priest discover'd, with eyes of desire,
 A mulberry-tree in a hedge of wild briar;
 On boughs long and lofty, in many a green shoot,
 Hung, large, black, and glossy, the beautiful fruit.

The Curate was hungry, and thirsty to boot;
 He shrunk from the thorns, though he long'd for the fruit;
 With a word he arrested§ his courser's keen speed,
 And he stood up erect on the back of his steed;
 On the saddle he stood while the creature stood still;
 And he gather'd the fruit till he took his good fill.

"Sure never," he thought, "was a creature so rare,
 So docile, so true, as my excellent mare;
 Lo, here now I stand," and he gazed all around,
 "As safe and as steady as if on the ground;
 Yet how had it been, if some traveller this way,
 Had, dreaming no mischief, but chanced to cry, Hey?"

* *Senate*, parliament.

‡ *Mettle*, pluck.

† *Tractable*, obedient, docile.

§ *Arrest*, stop.

He stood with his head in the mulberry-tree,
 And he spoke out aloud in his fond reverie ;*
 At the sound of the word the good mare made a push,
 And down went the Priest in the wild-briar bush.
 He remember'd too late, on his thorny green bed,
 Much that well may be thought, cannot wisely be said.

T. L. Peacock.

THE BUTTERFLY AND THE SNAIL.

As in the sunshine of the morn
 A Butterfly, but newly born,
 Sat proudly perking on a rose,
 With pert conceit his bosom glows ;
 His wings, all glorious to behold,
 Bedropt with azure, jet, and gold,
 Wide he displays ; the spangled dew
 Reflects his eyes and various hue.
 His now forgotten friend, a Snail,
 Beneath his house, with slimy trail,
 Crawls o'er the grass, whom when he spies,
 In wrath he to the gardener cries :

“ What means yon peasant's daily toil,
 From choking weeds to rid the soil ?
 Why wake you to the morning's care ?
 Why with new arts correct the year ?
 Why grows the peach's crimson hue ?
 And why the plum's inviting blue ?
 Were they to feast his taste design'd,
 That vermin of voracious kind ?
 Crush, then, the slow, the pilfering race,
 So purge thy garden from disgrace.”
 “ What arrogance ! ” the Snail replied ;
 “ How insolent is upstart pride !
 Hadst thou not thus, with insult vain
 Provoked my patience to complain,

* *Reverie*, dreamy thinking.

I had concealed thy meaner birth,
Nor traced thee to the scum of earth ;
For scarce nine suns have waked the hours,
To swell the fruit, and paint the flowers,
Since I thy humbler life survey'd,
In base, in sordid guise array'd.
I own my humble life, good friend ;
Snail was I born and Snail shall end.
And what's a Butterfly ? At best
He's but a caterpillar drest ;
And all thy race (a numerous seed)
Shall prove of caterpillar breed."

Guy.

THE DISPUTED CASE.

BETWEEN Nose and Eyes a strange contest arose ;
The spectacles set them unhappily wrong :
The point in dispute was, as all the world knows,
To which the said spectacles ought to belong.

So Tongue was the lawyer, and argued the cause
With a great deal of wit, and a wig full of learning ;
While chief baron Ear sat to balance the laws,
So famed for his talent in nicely discerning.

"In behalf of the Nose it will quickly appear,
And your lordship," he said, "will undoubtedly find,
That the Nose has had spectacles always in wear,
Which amounts to possession time out of mind."

Then holding the spectacles up to the court :—
"Your lordship observes they are made with a straddle
As wide as the ridge of the Nose is—in short,
Designed to sit close to it, just like a saddle.

"Again ; would your lordship a moment suppose
('Tis a case that has happened, and may be again)
That the visage or countenance had not a nose,
Pray who would, or who could, wear spectacles then ?

"On the whole it appears, that my argument shows,
With a reasoning the court will never condemn,
That the spectacles plainly were made for the Nose,
And the Nose was as plainly intended for them."

Then shifting his side (as the lawyer knows how),
He pleaded again in behalf of the Eyes;
But what were his arguments few people know,
For the court did not think they were equally wise.

So his lordship decreed, with a grave, solemn tone,
Decisive and clear, without one if or but,
That, whenever the Nose put his spectacles on,
By day-light, or candle-light, Eyes should be shut.

Cowper.

THE KITTENS AND THE VIPER.

Close by the threshold of a door nail'd fast,
Three Kittens sat; each kitten look'd aghast;
I, passing swift and inattentive by,
At the three Kittens cast a careless eye,
Little concern'd* to know what they did there,
Not deeming kittens worth a poet's care.
But presently a loud and furious hiss
Caused me to stop and to exclaim, "What's this?"
When lo! with head erect and fiery eye,
A dusky Viper on the ground I spy.
Forth from his head his forked tongue he throws,
Darting it full against a Kitten's nose!
Who, never having seen in field or house
The like, sat still and silent as a mouse;
Only, projecting† with attention due
Her whisker'd face, she ask'd him, "Who are you?"
On to the hall went I, with pace not slow,
But swift as lightning, for a long Dutch hoe;

* *Concerned, caring.*

† *Projecting, putting forward, protruding.*

With which, well armed, I hastened to the spot
 To find the Viper;—but I found him not.
 And, turning up the leaves and shrubs around,
 Found only—that he was not to be found.
 But still the Kittens, sitting as before,
 Were watching close the bottom of the door.
 "I hope," said I, "the villain I would kill
 Has slipped between the door and the door-sill;
 And if I make despatch,* and follow hard,
 No doubt but I shall find him in the yard."
 (For long ere now it should have been rehearsed,†
 'Twas in the garden that I found him first).
 Ev'n there I found him, there the full-grown cat
 His head with velvet paw did gently pat;
 As curious as the Kittens erst ‡ had been,
 To learn what this phenomenon § might mean.
 Filled with heroic ardor || at the sight,
 And fearing every moment he would bite,
 And rob our household of the only cat
 That was of age to combat ¶ with a rat,
 With outstretched hoe I slew him at the door,
 And taught him NEVER TO COME THITHER MORE!

Cooper.

THE TAME STAG.

As a young Stag the thicket pass'd,
 The branches held his antlers fast.
 A clown who saw the captive hung,
 Across his horns a halter slung.
 Now safely hamper'd in the cord,
 He bore the present to his lord.
 His lord was pleas'd, as was the clown
 When he was tipp'd with half-a-crown.

* Despatch, haste.

† Rehearsed, mentioned.

‡ Erst, once, formerly.

§ Phenomenon, strange appearance.

|| Ardor, excitement.

¶ Combat, fight.

The Stag was brought before his wife:
The tender lady begged his life.
How sleek his skin! how speck'd like ermine!
Sure never creature was so charming!
At first, within the yard confin'd,
He flies and hides from all mankind;
Now bolder grown, with fix'd amaze
And distant awe, presumes to gaze;
Munches the linen on the lines,
And on a hood, or apron dines:
He steals my little master's bread,
Follows the servants to be fed.
Nearer and nearer now he stands,
To feel the praise of patting hands;
Examines every fist for meat,
And though repuls'd, disdain's retreat;
Attacks again with levell'd horns,
And man, that was his terror, scorns.

Gay.

A SNAKE IN THE GRASS.

SHE had a secret of her own,
That little girl of whom we speak,
O'er which she oft would muse alone,
Till the blush came across her cheek;
A rosy cloud that glow'd awhile,
Then melted in a sunny smile.

There was so much to charm the eye,
So much to move delightful thought,
Awake at night she loved to lie,
Darkness to her that image brought;
She murmured of it in her dreams,
Like the low sound of gurgling streams.

What secret thus the soul possess'd
Of one so young and innocent?

Oh! nothing but a robin's nest,
 O'er which in ecstasy* she bent ;—
 That treasure she herself had found,
 With five brown eggs upon the ground.

When first it flash'd upon her sight,
 Bolt flew the dam above her head ;
 She stoop'd, and almost shriek'd with fright ;
 But spying soon that little bed,
 With feathers, moss, and horse-hairs twined,
 Rapture† and wonder filled her mind.

Breathless and beautiful she stood,
 Her ringlets o'er her bosom fell,
 With hands uplift, in attitude
 As though a pulse might break the spell,
 While through the shade, her pale, fine face
 Shone like a star amidst the place.

She stood so silent, stayed so long,
 The parent birds forgot their fear,
 Cock-robin trolled his small sweet song,
 In notes like dew-drops, trembling clear ;
 From spray to spray the shyer hen
 Dropt softly on her nest again.

There Lucy marked her slender bill
 On this side, and on that her tail,
 Peer'd o'er the edge—while, fix'd and still,
 Two bright black eyes her own assail,‡
 Which in eye-language seem'd to say,
 "Peep, pretty maiden, then away ! "

Away, away, at length she crept,
 So pleased, she knew not how she trode,
 Yet light on tottering tip-toe stept,
 As if birds' eggs strew'd all the road :
 With folded arms and lips comprest,
 To keep her joy within her breast.

* *Ecstasy*, excited joy. † *Rapture*, joy, ecstasy.

‡ *Assail*, meet.

Morn, noon, and eve, from day to day,
 By stealth she visited that spot:
 Alike her lessons and her play
 Were slightly conned, or half forgot;
 And when the callow* young were hatch'd,
 With infant fondness Lucy watch'd:—

Watch'd the kind parents dealing food
 To clamorous† suppliants all agape;
 Watch'd the small, naked, uniform'd brood
 Improve in size, in plume, and shape,
 Till feathers clad the fluttering things,
 And the whole group seem'd bills and wings.

Unconsciously within her breast,
 Where many a brooding fancy lay,
 She planned to bear the tiny nest
 And chirping choristers‡ away,
 In stately cage to tune their throats,
 And learn untaught their mother-notes.

One morn, when fairly fledged for flight,
 Blithe Lucy, on her visit, found
 What seem'd a necklace, glittering bright,
 Twined round the nest, twined round and round,
 With emeralds, pearls, and sapphires set,
 Rich as my lady's coronet.§

She stretch'd her hand to seize the prize,
 When up a serpent popped its head,
 But glid like wild-fire from her eyes,
 Hissing and rustling as it fled;
 She utter'd one short, thrilling scream,
 Then stood, as startled from a dream.

Her brother Tom who long had known
 That something drew her feet that way,
 Curious to catch her there alone,
 Had follow'd her that fine May-day;

* *Callow*, unfeathered.
 ‡ *Choristers*, singers.

† *Clamorous*, noisy.
 § *Coronet*, wreath.

Lucy, bewilder'd by her trance,*
Came to herself at his first glance.

Then in her eyes sprang welcome tears,
They fell as showers in April fall ;
He kiss'd her, coax'd her, soothed her fears,
Till she in frankness told him all :
Tom was a bold adventurous boy,
And heard the dreadful tale with joy.

For he had learnt—in some far land,
How children catch the sleeping snake ;
Eager himself to try his hand,
He cut a hazel from the brake,
And like a hero set to work
To make a stout, long-handled fork.

Brother and sister then withdrew,
Leaving the nestlings safely there,
Between their heads the mother flew,
Prompt to resume her nursery care ;
But Tom, whose breast for glory burn'd,
In less than half an hour return'd.

With him came Ned, as cool and sly
As Tom was resolute and stout,
So, fair and softly, they drew nigh,
Cowering* and keeping sharp look-out
Till they had reached the copse, to see
But not alarm the enemy.

Guess with what transport they descried
How, as before, the serpent lay
Coiled round the nest, in slumbering pride ;
The urchins chuckled o'er their prey,
And Tom's right hand was lifted soon,
Like Greenland whalers with harpoon.

Across its neck the fork he brought,
And pinned it fast upon the ground ;

* *Trance*, dream, swoon. † *Cowering*, stooping backwards.

The reptile woke, and quick as thought
Curled round the stick, curled round and round,
While head and tail Ned's nimble hands
Tied at each end with packthread bands.

Scarce was the enemy secured,
When Lucy timidly drew near,
But, by their shouting well assured,
Eyed the green reptile without fear;
The lads, stark wild with victory, flung
Their caps aloft—they danced, they sung.

But Lucy with an anxious look
Turn'd to her own dear nest, when lo!
To legs and wings the young ones took,
Hopping and tumbling to and fro;
The parents chattering from above,
With all the earnestness of love.

Alighting now among their train,
They pecked them on new feats to try;
But many a lesson seem'd in vain
Before the giddy things would fly.
Lucy both laugh'd and cried to see
How ill they played at liberty.

I need not tell the snake's sad doom,
You may be sure he lived not long;
Corked in a bottle, for a tomb,
Preserved in spirits and in song,
His skin in Tom's museum shines,
You read his story in these lines.

Montgomery.

THE ASS AND THE SALT-CARRIER.

A HUXTER, who contrived an Ass to keep,
Hearing that salt on the sea-coast was cheap,
Chose to invest in it. With goodly load
Homeward he drove. When fairly on the road,
Into a stream the Ass unconscious rolled,
And, the salt melting, had no weight t' uphold,
So rose with greater ease, and lightly sought
And reach'd the bank. More salt the owner bought;
Again he brought his Ass to load: again
Piled his bags heavier. Then, in toil and pain,
Crossing the stream that caused his former fall,
The Ass, on purpose, slipp'd, lost salt and all;
And, at his luck triumphant, lightly rose.
Now did the Huxter a new scheme propose;
'Twas this:—To carry inland from the sea
"Whole loads of porous sponges: salt bags he
Was sick of." So the Ass, in knavish sort,
When to the stream again his load he brought,
Fell down on purpose. Every sponge was soak'd
At once, and he to heavier burden yoked;
Home on his back he bore a double bale.

Where men have oft succeeded they may fail.

Davies.

THE RETIRED CAT.

A Poet's Cat, sedate and grave,
As poet well could wish to have,
Was much addicted* to inquire
For nooks to which she might retire,
And where, secure as mouse in chink,
She might repose, or sit and think.

* *Addicted*, given.

Sometimes ascending, with an air,
An apple-tree, or lofty pear,
Lodged with convenience in the fork,
She watch'd the gardener at his work ;
Sometimes her ease and solace sought
In an old empty watering-pot ;
There, wanting nothing but a fan,
To seem some nymph in her sedan,†
In ermine dress'd, of finest sort,
And ready to be borne to court.

But love of change it seems has place
Not only in our wiser race ;
Cats also feel, as well as we,
That passion's force, and so did she.
Her climbing, she began to find,
Exposed her too much to the wind,
And the old watering-pot of tin
Was cold and comfortless within :
She therefore wish'd, instead of those,
Some place of more secure repose,
Where neither cold might come, nor air
Too rudely wanton† with her hair,
And sought it in the likeliest mode
Within her master's snug abode.
A drawer, it chanced, at bottom lined
With linen of the softest kind—
A drawer was hanging o'er the rest,
Half open, in the topmost chest,
Of depth enough, and none to spare,
Inviting her to slumber there.
Puss, with delight beyond expression,
Surveyed the scene and took possession ;
Then resting at her ease, ère long,
And lulled by her own hum-drum song,
She left the cares of life behind,
And slept as she would sleep her last ;
When in came, housewifely inclined,
The chambermaid, and shut it fast ;

* *Sedan*, portable chair.

† *Wanton*, sport.

By no ill-natured thought impell'd,*
 But quite unconscious† whom it held.
 Awaken'd by the shock, cried Puss,
 "Was ever cat attended thus!
 The open drawer was left, I see,
 Merely to prove a nest for me;
 For soon as I was well composed,
 Then came the maid, and it was closed.
 How smooth these 'kerchiefs and how sweet!
 Oh! what a delicate retreat!
 I will resign myself to rest,
 Till the sun, sinking in the west,
 Shall call to supper, when, no doubt,
 Susan will come and let me out."

The evening came, the sun descended,
 And Puss remained still unattended.
 The night rolled tardily away,
 (With her, indeed, 'twas never day,)
 The sprightly moon her course renewed,
 The evening grey again ensued;
 And Puss came into mind—no more
 Than if entombed the day before.
 With hunger pinch'd, and pinch'd for room
 She now presaged‡ approaching doom,
 Nor slept a single wink or purred,
 Feeling the risk she had incurred.

That night, by chance, the Poet watching,
 Heard an inexpressible scratching;
 His noble heart went pit-a-pat,
 And to himself he said, "What's that?"
 He drew the curtain at his side,
 And forth he peeped, but nothing spied;
 Yet, by his ear directed, guess'd
 Something imprisoned in the chest,
 And doubtful what, with prudent care,
 Resolved it should continue there.

* *Impelled*, moved.

† *Unconscious*, unaware.

‡ *Presage*, prophesy, foretell.

At length a voice which well he knew,
 A long and melancholy mew,
 Saluting* his poetic ears,
 Consoled him and dispelled his fears,
 He left his bed, he trod the floor,
 And 'gan† in haste the drawers explore,
 The lowest first, and without stop
 The rest in order to the top ;
 For 'tis a truth well known to most,
 That whatsoever thing is lost,
 We seek it ere it come to light
 In every corner but the right.
 Forth skipped the Cat, not now replete,
 As erst, with airy self-conceit,
 Nor in her own fond apprehension
 A theme for all the world's attention :
 But sober, modest, cured of all
 Her notions so fantastical ;
 And wishing for her place of rest
 Anything rather than a chest.
 Then stepped the Poet into bed
 With this reflection in his head :—
 Beware of too sublime a sense
 Of your own worth and consequence !
 The man who dreams himself so great,
 And his importance of such weight,
 That all around in all that's done,
 Must move and act for *him* alone,
 Will learn in school of tribulation,‡
 The folly of his expectation.

Couper.

* *Salute*, greet. † *'Gan*, began. ‡ *Tribulation*, suffering.

THE COUNCIL OF HORSES.

UPON a time a neighing steed,
 Who graz'd among a numerous breed,
 With mutiny had fired the train,
 And spread dissension* through the plain.
 On matters that concern'd† the state,
 The council‡ met in grand debate.
 A Colt whose eyeballs flamed with ire,
 Elate§ with strength and youthful fire,
 In haste stept forth before the rest,
 And thus the listening throng address'd.

“ Goodness, how abject|| is our race,
 Condemn'd to slavery and disgrace !
 Shall we our servitude¶ retain,
 Because our sires have borne the chain ?
 Consider, friends ! your strength and might ;
 'Tis conquest** to assert your right.
 How cumbrous†† is the gilded coach !
 The pride of man is our reproach.
 Were we design'd for daily toil,
 To drag the ploughshare through the soil,
 To sweat in harness through the road,
 To groan beneath the carrier's load ?
 How feeble are the two-legg'd kind !
 What force is in our nerves combined !
 Shall then our nobler jaws submit
 To foam and champ the galling bit ?
 Shall haughty man my back bestride ?
 Shall the sharp spur provoke my side ?
 Forbid it, heavens ! reject the rein :
 Your shame, your infamy, disdain.
 Let him the lion first control,
 And still†† the tiger's famish'd growl.

* *Dissension*, quarrelling.

† *Concerned*, had regard or reference to.

‡ *Council*, meeting.

§ *Elate*, spirited, animated.

|| *Abject*, degraded, mean.

¶ *Servitude*, slavery, subjection.

** *Conquest*, victory.

†† *Cumbrous*, unwieldy.

†† *Still*, to quiet.

Let us, like them, our freedom claim,
And make him tremble at our name."

A general nod approv'd the cause,
And all the circle neigh'd applause.
When, lo ! with grave and solemn pace,
A steed advanc'd before the race,
With age and long experience wise ;
Around he cast his thoughtful eyes,
And, to the murmurs of the train,
Thus spoke the Nestor* of the plain.

" When I had health and strength like you
The toils of servitude I knew ;
Now grateful man rewards my pains,
And gives me all these wide domains.†
At will I crop the year's increase ;‡
My latter life is rest and peace.
I grant, to man we lend our pains,
And aid him to correct§ the plains ;
But doth not he divide the care,
Through all the labors of the year ?
How many thousand structures|| rise,
To fence us from inclement¶ skies !
For us he bears the sultry day,
And stores up all our winter's hay.
He sows, he reaps the harvest's grain ;
We share the toil and share the grain.
Since every creature was decreed**
To aid each other's mutual need,
Appease†† your discontented mind,
And act the part by Heaven assign'd.'††
The tumult ceased, the Colt submitted,
And, like his ancestors, was bitted.

Gay.

* *Nestor*, aged counsellor.

† *Domains*, landed possessions.

‡ *Increase*, i.e. harvest.

§ *Correct*, i.e. set in order, till.

|| *Structures*, buildings.

¶ *Inclement*, rainy, fraught with

** *Decreed*, designed, destined.

bad weather.

†† *Appease*, satisfy, calm.

†† *Assigned*, given, allotted.

THE AMBITIOUS WEED.

An idle Weed that used to crawl
Unseen behind the garden wall,
(Its most becoming station,)
At last, refreshed by sun and showers,
Which nourish weeds, as well as flowers,
Amused its solitary hours
With thoughts of elevation.

These thoughts encouraged day by day,
It shot forth many an upward spray.
And many a tendril band;
But as it could not climb alone,
It uttered oft a lazy groan
To moss and mortar, stick and stone,
To lend a helping hand.

At length, by friendly arms sustained,
The aspiring vegetable gained
The object of its labors:
That which had cost her many a sigh,
And nothing else would satisfy—
Which was not only being high,
But *higher* than her neighbors.

And now this Weed, though weak, and spent
With climbing up the steep ascent,
Admired her figure tall:
And then (for vanity ne'er ends
With that which it at first intends),
Began to laugh at those poor friends
Who helped her up the wall.

But by-and-by, my lady spied
The garden on the other side:
And fallen was her crest,

To see, in neat array* below,
 A bed of all the flowers that blow—
 Lily and rose—a goodly show,
 In fairest colors drest.

Recovering from her first surprise,
 She soon began to criticise :—†
 “A dainty sight, indeed !
 I’d be the meanest thing that blows
 Rather than that affected‡ Rose ;
 So much perfume offends my nose,”
 Exclaimed the vulgar Weed.

“Well, ’tis enough to make one chilly,
 To see that pale, consumptive Lily
 Among these painted folks.
 Miss Tulip, too, looks wondrous odd,
 She’s gaping like a dying cod ;—
 What a queer stick is Golden-Rod !
 And how the Violet pokes !

“Not for the gayest tint that lingers
 On Honeysuckle’s rosy fingers,
 Would I with her exchange ;
 Since this, at least, is very clear,
 Since they are there, and I am here,
 I occupy a higher sphere—
 Enjoy a wider range”

Alas ! poor envious Weed !—for lo,
 That instant came the gardener’s hoe
 And lopped her from her “sphere.”
 But none lamented when she fell ;
 No passing Zephyr§ sighed, “Farewell !”
 No friendly Bee would hum her knell ;
 No Fairy dropt a tear ;—

* *Array*, order.

† *Criticise*, make observations upon.

‡ *Affected*, self-conceited.

§ *Zephyr*, balmy breeze.

While those sweet flowers of genuine* worth,
 Inclining towards the modest earth,
 Adorn the vale below ;
 Content to hide in sylvan† dells
 Their rosy buds and purple bells ;
 Though scarce a rising Zephyr tells
 The secret where they grow.

Jane Taylor.

THE NIGHTINGALE AND GLOW-WORM.

A NIGHTINGALE, that all day long
 Had cheered the village with his song,
 Not yet at eve his note suspended,‡
 Nor yet when eventide was ended,
 Began to feel—as well he might—
 The keen demands of appetite ;
 When, looking eagerly around,
 He spied, far off, upon the ground,
 A something shining in the dark,
 And knew the Glow-worm by his spark ;
 So, stooping down from hawthorn top,
 He thought to put him in his crop.
 The worm, aware of his intent,
 Harangued§ him thus, quite eloquent—
 “Did you admire my lamp,” quoth he,
 “As much as I your minstrelsy,||
 You would abhor to do me wrong,
 As much as I to spoil your song ;
 For 'twas the self-same Power divine
 Taught you to sing, and me to shine,
 That you with music, I with light,
 Might beautify and cheer the night.”

* *Genuine*, real, substantial.

‡ *Suspended*, stopt.

† *Sylvan*, woody.

§ *Harangue*, address.

|| *Minstreley*, singing.

The songster heard his short oration,*
 And, warbling out his approbation,†
 Released him, as my story tells,
 And found a supper somewhere else.

Cowper.

THE WORM AND THE SNAIL.

A LITTLE Worm, too close that play'd
 In contact with a gardener's spade,
 Wriggling about in sudden pain,
 Perceived that he was cut in twain;
 His nether‡ half left short and free,
 Much doubting its identity.§
 However, when the shock was past,
 New circling rings were form'd so fast
 By Nature's hand, which fails her never,
 That soon he was as long as ever;
 But yet the insult and the pain
 This little reptile did retain,
 In what, in man, is called the brain.

One fine spring evening, bright and wet,
 Ere yet the April sun was set,
 When slimy reptiles crawl and coil
 Forth from the soft and humid|| soil,
 He left his subterranean¶ clay,
 To move along the gravelly way;
 Where suddenly his course was stopt
 By something on the path that dropt;
 When with precaution** and surprise,
 He straight shrunk up to half his size.
 That 'twas a stone was first his notion,
 But soon discovered locomotion,††

* *Oration*, speech.

† *Approbation*, approval.

‡ *Nether*, under, lower. § *Identity*, being itself. || *Humid*, moist.

¶ *Subterranean*, under the soil. ** *Precaution*, forethought.

†† *Locomotion*, movement from one place to another.

He recognised the coat of mail*
 And horny antlers of a snail,
 Which some young rogue (we beg his pardon)
 Had flung into his neighbour's garden.

The Snail, all shatter'd and infirm,†
 Deplored his fate, and told the Worm :—
 “Alas!” says he, “I know it well,
 All this is owing to my shell;
 They could not send me up so high,
 Describing circles in the sky,
 But that, on this account, 'tis known
 I bear resemblance to a stone:
 Would I could rid me of my case,
 And find a tenant ‡ for the place !
 I'll make it known to all my kin ;—
This house to let—enquire within!”

“Good!” says the Worm, “the bargain's struck ;
 I take it, and admire my luck !
 That shell, from which you'd fain be free,
 Is just the very thing for me.
 Oft have I wish'd, when danger calls,
 For such impervious § castle walls,
 Both for defence and shelter made,
 From greedy crow, and murderous spade :
 Yes, neighbour Snail, I'll hire the room,
 And pay the rent when strawberries come.”

“Do,” says the Snail, “and I'll declare
 You'll find the place in good repair ;
 With winding ways that will not fail
 To accommodate your length of tail.”
 (This fact the wily rogue concealing—
 The fall had broken in his ceiling.)

“Oh,” says the sanguine || Worm, “I knew
 That I might safely deal with you.”
 Thus was the tenement transferr'd, ||
 And that without another word.

* *Coat of mail*, metal clothing, armor. † *Infirm*, weak.

‡ *Tenant*, inmate, resident.

§ *Impervious*, that cannot be pierced, strong. || *Sanguine*, eager.

|| *Tenement transferred*, house handed over.

Off went the Snail in houseless plight;
 Alas! it proved a frosty night,
 And ere a peep of morning light,
 One wish supreme* he found prevail;
 In all the world this foolish Snail
 Saw nothing he should like so well—
 Which was—that he had got a shell.
 But soon for this he ceased to sigh;
 A little Duck came waddling by,
 Who, having but a youthful bill,
 Had ventured not so large a pill,
 (E'en at imperious hunger's call)
 As this poor reptile, house and all;
 But finding such a dainty bite
 All ready to his appetite,
 Down went the Snail! whose last lament
 Mourn'd his deserted tenement.

Meantime the Worm had spent his strength
 In vain attempts to curl his length
 His small apartment's space about,
 For head or tail must needs stick out;
 Now, if this last was left, 'twas more
 Exposed to danger than before;
 And "twould be vastly strange," he said,
 "To sit in-doors without one's head."—
 Alas! he now completely bears
 The unknown weight of household cares,
 And wishes much some kind beholder
 Would take the burden off his shoulder.
 Now broke the dawn; and soon with fear,
 Feeling the shock of footsteps near,
 He tried to reach that wish'd-for goal,
 The shelter of a neighbouring hole,
 Which proved, when danger threaten'd sore,
 A certain refuge† heretofore.
 But fail'd him now this last resort; ‡
 His new appendage § stopp'd him short,

* Supreme, highest.
 † i.e., resource.

‡ Refuge, safe retreat.
 § Appendage, something attached.

For all his efforts would not do
To force it in or drag it through.
Oh, then, poor Worm ! what words can say
How much he wish'd his shell away !
But wishes all were vain—for oh !
The garden-roller—dreaded foe !
Came growling by, and did not fail
To crush our hero head and tail,—
Just when the Duck devour'd the Snail.

Jane Taylor.

THE WATERFALL AND THE EGLANTINE.

“BEGONE, thou fond presumptuous elf,”
Exclaim'd an angry voice,
“Nor dare to thrust thy foolish self
Between me and my choice !”
A small Cascade, fresh swoln with snows,
Thus threaten'd a poor Briar-rose,
That, all bespatter'd with his foam,
And dancing high and dancing low,
Was living, as a child might know,
In an unhappy home.

“Dost thou presume my course to block ?
Off, off ! or, puny thing !
I'll hurl thee headlong with the rock
To which thy fibres cling.”
The Flood was tyrannous and strong ;
The patient Briar suffer'd long,
Nor did he utter groan or sigh,
Hoping the danger would be past ;
But, seeing no relief, at last,
He ventured to reply.

“Ah !” said the Briar, “blame me not ;
Why should we dwell in strife ?
We, who in this sequester'd spot,
Once lived a happy life !

You stirr'd me on my rocky bed—
What pleasure on my veins you spread
The summer long, from day to day,
My leaves you freshen'd and bedew'd ;
Nor was it common gratitude
That did your cares repay.

“When spring came on with bud and bell,
Among these rocks did I
Before you hang my wreaths, to tell
That gentle days were nigh !
And in the sultry summer hours,
I shelter'd you with leaves and flowers ;
And in my leaves—now shed and gone,
The linnet lodged, and for us two
Chanted his pretty songs, when you
Had little voice or none.

“But now proud thoughts are in your breast—
What grief is mine you see ;
Ah ! would you think, even yet how blest
Together we might be !
Though of both leaf and flower bereft
Some ornaments to me are left—
Rich store of scarlet hips is mine,
With which I, in my humble way,
Would deck you many a winter day,
A happy Eglantine.”

What more he said I cannot tell.
The Torrent down the rocky dell
Came thundering loud and fast ;
I listen'd, nor aught else could hear ;
The Briar quaked—and much I fear
Those accents were his last.

Wordsworth.

THE FLY AND THE SPIDER.

ON a fair morn, a Spider who had set
To catch a breakfast his old waving net,
With curious art upon a spangled thorn,
At length, with gravely, squinting, longing eye,
Near him beheld a pretty plump young Fly,
Humming her little orison to morn.

"Good Morrow, dear Miss Fly," quoth gallant Grim;
"Good Morrow, sir," replied Miss Fly to him.
"Walk in, Miss, pray, and see what I'm about."
"I'm much obliged t' you, sir," Miss Fly rejoin'd,
"My eyes are both so very good, I find,
That I can plainly see the whole without."

"Fine weather, Miss"—"Yes, very, very fine,"
Quoth Miss,—"prodigious fine indeed."
"But why so coy," quoth Grim, "that you decline
To put within my bower your pretty head?"
"Tis simply this,"
Quoth cautious Miss,
"I fear you like my pretty head so well,
You'd keep it for yourself, sir—who can tell?"

"Then let me squeeze your lovely hand, my dear,
And prove that all your fears are foolish, vain."
"I've a sore finger, sir; nay, more, I fear
You really would not let it go again."
"Poh, poh! child, pray dismiss your idle dread;
I would not hurt a hair of that sweet head;
Well, then, with one kind kiss of friendship meet me."
"La, sir," quoth Miss, with seeming artless tongue,
"I fear our salutation would be long;
So loving, too, I fear that you would eat me."

So saying, with a smile, she left the rogue,
To weave more lines of death, and plan for prog.

Walcot.

MONEY TABLE.

Farthings.	d.	Pence.	s.	d.	Pence.	s.	d.	Shillings.	s.	s.
4	are	1	15	are	1	3	58	are	4	10
5	...	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	16	...	1	4	59	...	4	11
6	...	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	17	...	1	5	60	...	5	0
7	...	1 $\frac{1}{4}$	18	...	1	6	61	...	5	1
8	...	2	19	...	1	7	62	...	5	2
9	...	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	20	...	1	8	63	...	5	3
10	...	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	...	1	9	64	...	5	4
11	...	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	22	...	1	10	65	...	5	5
12	...	3	23	...	1	11	66	...	5	6
13	...	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	24	...	2	0	67	...	5	7
14	...	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	25	...	2	1	68	...	5	8
15	...	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	26	...	2	2	69	...	5	9
16	...	4	27	...	2	3	70	...	5	10
17	...	4 $\frac{1}{4}$	28	...	2	4	71	...	5	11
18	...	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	29	...	2	5	72	...	6	0
19	...	4 $\frac{3}{4}$	30	...	2	6	73	...	6	1
20	...	5	31	...	2	7	74	...	6	2
21	...	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	32	...	2	8	75	...	6	3
22	...	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	33	...	2	9	76	...	6	4
23	...	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	34	...	2	10	77	...	6	5
24	...	6	35	...	2	11	78	...	6	6
25	...	6 $\frac{1}{4}$	36	...	3	0	79	...	6	7
26	...	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	37	...	3	1	80	...	6	8
27	...	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	38	...	3	2	81	...	6	9
28	...	7	39	...	3	3	82	...	6	10
29	...	7 $\frac{1}{4}$	40	...	3	4	83	...	6	11
30	...	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	41	...	3	5	84	...	7	0
31	...	7 $\frac{3}{4}$	42	...	3	6	85	...	7	1
32	...	8	43	...	3	7	86	...	7	2
33	...	8 $\frac{1}{4}$	44	...	3	8	87	...	7	3
34	...	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	45	...	3	9	88	...	7	4
35	...	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	46	...	3	10	89	...	7	5
36	...	9	47	...	3	11	90	...	7	6
37	...	9 $\frac{1}{4}$	48	...	4	0	91	...	7	7
38	...	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	49	...	4	1	92	...	7	8
39	...	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	50	...	4	2	93	...	7	9
40	...	10	51	...	4	3	94	...	7	10
<hr/>										
Pence.	s.	d.	54	...	4	6	97	...	8	1
12	are	1 0	55	...	4	7	98	...	8	2
13	...	1 1	56	...	4	8	99	...	8	3
14	...	1 2	57	...	4	9	100	...	8	4

4 farthings qrs. = 1 penny d. 5 shillings = 1 crown cr.
 12 pence = 1 shilling s. 20 shillings = 1 pound or sovereign £
 2 shillings = 1 florin f. 21 shillings = 1 guinea G.

The Grass.*

FOR THREE VOICES.

THOMAS MURBY.

Quickly.



Here I come creeping, Here I come creeping, Here I come

1ST. AND 2ND VOICES.



creeping ev' - ry - where. By the dusty roadside,



On the sunny hill-side, Close by the noisy brook, In ev'ry
3. VOICES.



shady nook, I come creeping, I come creeping,



I come creeping ev' - ry - where.

Here I come creeping, creeping every-
In the busy city [where,
There you may meet me
Cheering the sick at heart,
Toiling his weary part,
Softly creeping everywhere.

Here I come creeping, creeping every-
No one hears my coming, [where,
Nor my low soft humming,
For in the starry night,
And the glad morning light,
I come creeping everywhere.

Here I come creeping, creeping every-
Sweeter than the flowers, [where,
In the summer hours;
Who does not welcome me,
When, 'neath the shady tree,
I come creeping everywhere. [where ;

Here I come creeping, creeping every-
When from life you're sever'd,
(1) And in the dark grave buried,
In the happy spring I'll come
And deck your silent home,
Softly creeping everywhere.

* Re-arranged from "New Tunes to Choice Words."



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